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OPINION METER

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Japan Donation

The Legislature turns over \$3,758.28 to the NMI-Japan Disaster Relief organization.

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Modest Thailand

Thai authorities denounce three teenage girls who danced topless on a Bangkok street.

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Pulitzer Prize

Jennifer Egan's novel about the passage of time wins the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

'US senators' secret visit disturbing'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration and some CNMI lawmakers find it "disturbing" that 15 U.S. senators secretly visited Guam on Monday and chose not to meet with any Guam leader or resident at a time when the U.S. government is pushing a \$15-billion military buildup in the Marianas. **See US SENATORS on Page 4**

Fly Guam eyes 6 planes to service CNMI, Guam

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Fly Guam, the latest airline to provide air services to the CNMI, has plans to have six planes under its wings and the Fly Marianas brand to fly directly from Saipan to mainland China and other international destinations in the next three years.

"We're already talking with the [Marianas Visitors Authority] and the local government to try to launch the Fly Mari-

anas brand," said Carlos Santos, managing partner of Micronesia Publishing Company, during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's restaurant.

The mother company of Fly Microneisa, Micronesia Publishing Company is dedicated to providing publishing and marketing services to the Fly Guam brand and its partner companies.

According to Santos, Fly Guam was an initiative that started in **See FLY on Page 4**

Ex-juvenile detention guard pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

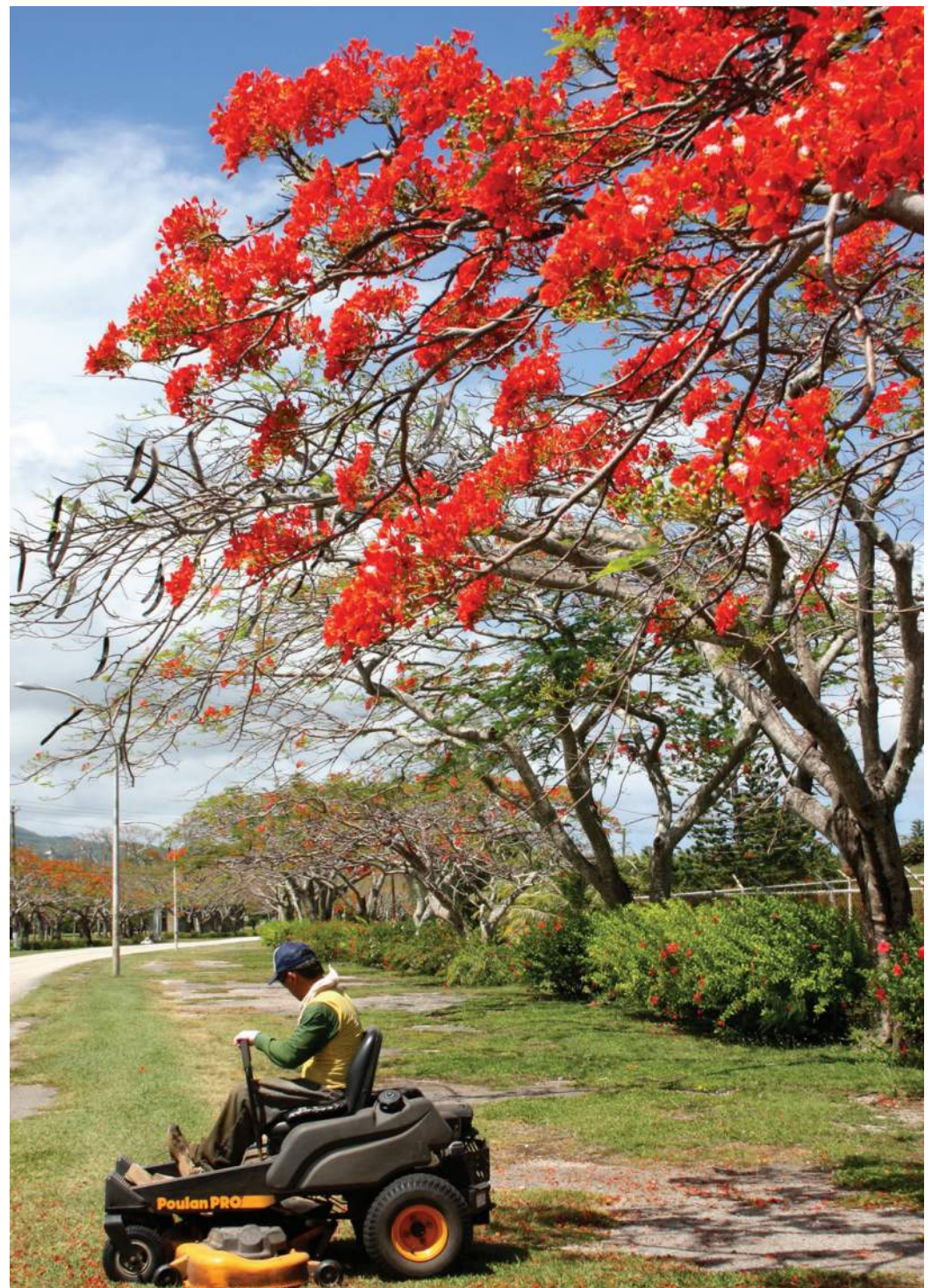
Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial, the former detention guard at the Juvenile Detention Unit accused of forcing three female wards to engage in sex acts, pleaded guilty yesterday to enticing a minor as part of a plea deal.

He will be sentenced on July 21, 2011 at 9am.

Under the plea agreement, Fitial could be subject to the mandatory 10 years in prison. As part of the plea deal, two charges of deprivation of rights under color of law will be dropped.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood directed the U.S. Probation Office to prepare a pre-sentence investi-

See EX-JUVENILE on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

IN BLOOM

A man operates a mower by the flame tree-lined road leading to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday. At this time of the year, major thoroughfares such as Airport Road and Beach Road become more spectacular and "light up like fire" because of the flame trees in bloom that resemble flames when seen from a distance.

PSS wants 22 new iPad 2 tablets for instruction. PAGE 3
Labor closes cases, appeals filed by 403 alien workers. PAGE 5

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Local

Legislature turns over \$3,758 for Japan recovery efforts

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) led the Legislature yesterday in turning over \$3,758.28 to the NMI-Japan Disaster Relief organization and Japan consul Tsutomu Higuchi in the House chamber on Capital Hill.

Nick Nishikawa, president of the Japan Association in the CNMI, said they appreciate the CNMI people's kindness.

"People in Japan also appreciate the kindness," Nishikawa, who is also chairman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and general manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan, told *Saipan Tribune* after the donation.

With lawmakers and Legislative Bureau staff in attendance, Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) also presented Higuchi with a copy of a Senate resolution expressing sympathy to the Japanese people in light of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Yoichi Matsumura of the NMI-Japan Disaster Relief organization said they have so far collected some \$50,000 in cash/check donations, which they will, in turn, give to the Japan Consulate.

The Legislature was able to



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), along with members of the Legislature, present a donation of \$3,758.28 to the members of the NMI Japan Disaster Relief organization to help in Japan's recovery efforts after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, during a brief ceremony yesterday morning on Capital Hill. The Legislature also presented Japan consul Tsutomu Higuchi with a copy of a Senate resolution expressing sympathy and solidarity with the people of Japan in the wake of the disaster.

raise the funds when they set up a "prison" at the Join Us Help Japan fundraiser at the Garapan Fishing Base on April 2, and "put behind bars" individuals who were released only after posting bail.

The members of the NMI-Japan Disaster Relief Organization and Higuchi were accompanied

by Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

In their joint letter to Japan's consul, Cabrera and Manglona also extended their sincerest condolences to the consul and the people of Japan following the March 11 tragedy.

They said the Legislature also applauds the efforts of those

who helped in the planning and organization of the April 2 fund-raising activities such as MVA, HANMI, Department of Public Safety, KKMP Radio, dance groups and bands that performed throughout the day and particularly, Yoichi Matsumura, chairman of the NMI-Japan Disaster Relief Organization.

Delta donates \$4.9K to Rotary

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Delta Air Lines, which pledged its support for Rotary Club of Saipan's two recent projects, handed over the donation during the Rotary's meeting yesterday.

Guam and Saipan manager Richard Parsons and sales and marketing representative Esther Sound handed the two separate checks worth \$3,500 and \$1,429.50 to Rotary president Glen Perez.

Parsons said the \$3,500 is for the Parade of Books, which was held April 2 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, while the \$1,429.50 was to cover the cost of the dictionaries distributed last month to third graders in public schools in the CNMI.

"We're very pleased to provide this," said Parsons after handing the checks.

According to Parsons, the money came from the funds raised during the 6th Delta Air Lines Charity Golf Tournament held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort last Dec. 4, 2010.

Although the tournament was "small," Parsons said it still yielded "very good financial results."

"We have about \$3,300 still remaining which we're going to use... to bring children from Saipan down to Guam to compete in the annual science fair," he told the Rotarians.

Parsons said that last year, Delta Air Lines brought 15 students with one chaperone each to Guam through Freedom Air at a very reasonable rate.

"Out of those 15 kids from Saipan that competed in the science fair, nine won either first, second or third in their project categories. They did a fantastic job," Parsons added.

Perez said the next distribution of the dictionaries will be earlier "so that it coincides with the school opening."

"Within several weeks of starting school, we will be able to provide all third graders with dictionaries," he added.

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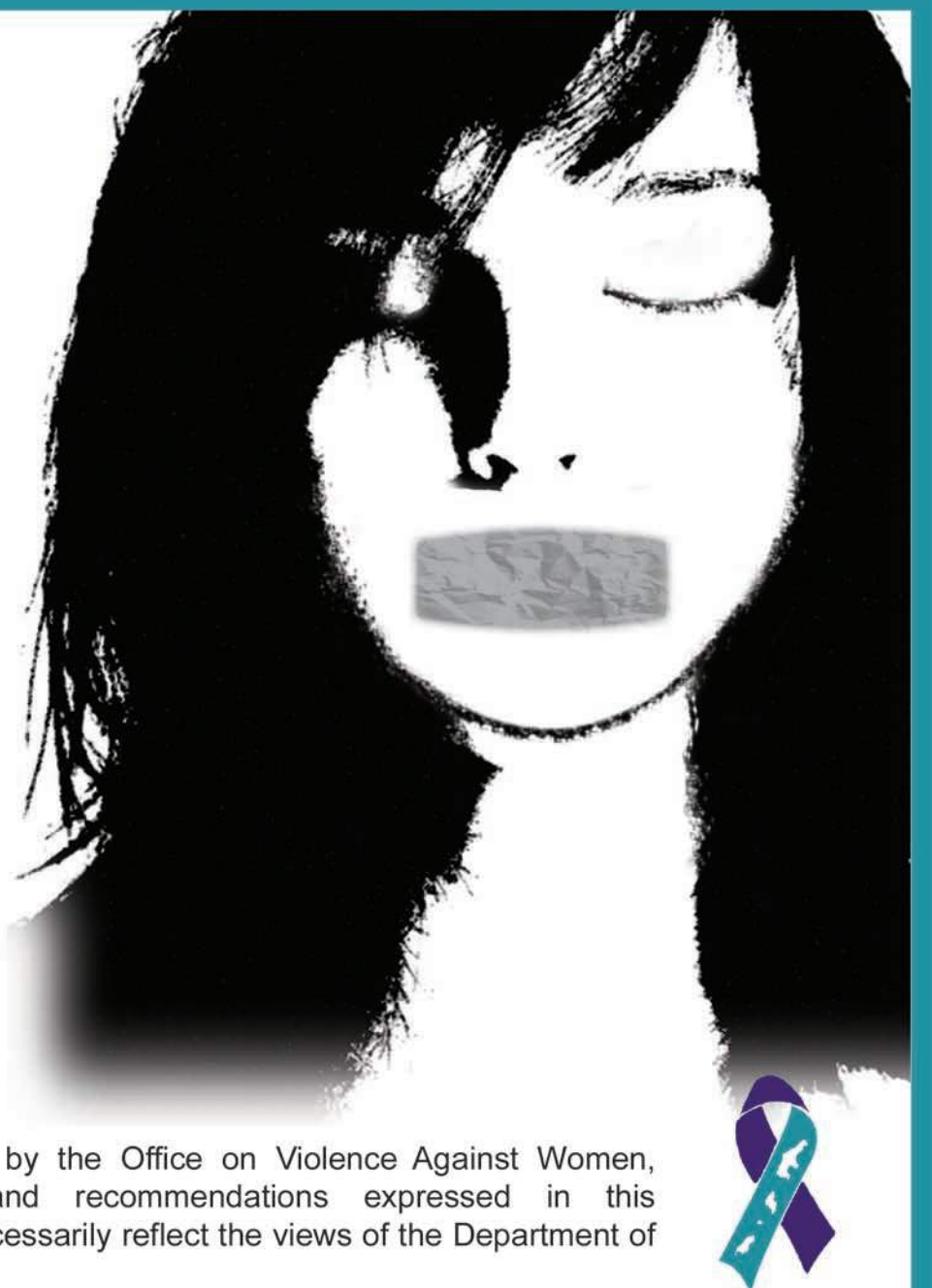
For information call the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence at 234-3878.

For help, call the Karidat Victim Hotline at

234-5100

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

This project is supported by Grant No. 2008-SW-AX-0001 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the authors(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



PSS wants 22 new iPad 2 tablets for instruction

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Public School System and the Board of Education want to procure Apple iPad tablets that will be used for student instruction.

In an invitation to bid issued by PSS, it seeks competitive sealed bids for the

purchase of 22 Apple iPad 2 tablets; the scope of work was available since April 7 until tomorrow, April 21.

PSS procurement officer Robert Florian said that funding for the units will come from the E-rate grants given to the school system.

E-rate coordinator Joe Torres confirmed the bid announce-

ment but refused to disclose more information about it. He only said he was asked to prepare a request for proposal for the project.

According to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, the iPads will be used in advancing the instruction for students.

"Any technology that is procured by PSS is really for school, teachers, students, administrators for instruction purposes," she said, adding that, like the brand new laptops distributed to all junior and high school students, the iPads will help advance the

learning of students.

As for who will use the 22 iPad units, Sablan said: "They can be used by administrators, students, [and] teachers to support instruction."

"Why only 22? Maybe because PSS only needs 22 [of the equipment]," she added.

PSS gave away over 5,000 brand new laptops to high school students right after the

school year opened in September last year. An additional 700 were given out early this year to junior high students in public and private schools. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the state fiscal stabilization fund.

After laptops, e-book readers like the Kindle may come next for public school students, according to the board.

OAG files charges vs Syed's alleged death threat caller

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed charges against a man who allegedly made a death threat against United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed and his family.

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest charged Joaquin H. Tenorio with assault and disturbing the peace.

The 22-year-old Tenorio was not arrested. Instead, the OAG summoned him to appear in court on May 9, 2011, to face the charge.

Ernest stated in the information that on Feb. 26, 2011, on Saipan, the defendant "unlawfully offered or attempted, with force or violence, to strike, beat, wound or cause bodily harm to Rabby Syed." Ernest said the defendant also disturbed the peace of Syed.

According to Syed, he received the death threat two days after the United Workers Movement-NMI led a peaceful march to press Congress to grant improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

Syed said the caller threatened to chop off his neck, hands, and feet and kill his family for his advocacy work.

Syed reported the matter to the Department of Public Safety and Federal Bureau of Investigation. He said the threat caused his wife to stop working and their children didn't want to go to school in fear. Syed, a Bangladeshi national, is married to a local.

Last month, Syed told the media that the caller and his aunt had called him, asking for forgiveness and to drop the complaint. The caller claimed that a friend had influenced him to make the death threat.

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Easter egg hunt 12:45pm-1:45pm

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Groups to create SART to improve response for sexual assault victims



Service providers, volunteers, and community advocates against domestic and sexual violence gather for a group photo inside the chamber of Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo yesterday morning.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

To improve the services for victims of sexual assault, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and various service providers have teamed up to create a Sexual As-

sault Response Team or SART.

"Once created, the SART will work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for victims of sexual assault and to ensure that all victims have access to broad range of services," said Coalition executive director Maisie B. Tenorio said in a news brief-

ing yesterday morning.

The briefing, held at Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo's courtroom, was also attended by volunteers and community advocates against domestic and sexual violence.

SART will be composed of representatives of various ser-

vice providers, including the Coalition, the Department of Public Safety, the Commonwealth Health Center, the Office of the Attorney General and Karidat's Guma Esperansa.

Tenorio said the SART will be activated when victims of sexual assault come in contact

with any of its members.

"Each member of the SART is responsible to ensure that victims are helped through the process, while minimizing as much of the trauma as possible," she said.

In an interview, Tenorio explained that the victim's trauma will be reduced since interviewing and investigation will be more coordinated and will yield a better outcome for the victim in the end.

"Studies have shown that victims who participate in this kind of process, at the end of it are further along in their journey to heal from sexual assault. That's what we're hoping [which] is really to create a coordinated response for victims of sexual assault," she said.

According to Tenorio, a similar program existed in early 200 through the multi-disciplinary response team out of CHC.

"The multi-disciplinary response team was similar to SART but they focus mainly on

children...I'm not exactly sure what happened to it but that program does not exist anymore," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The hardest part in creating SART, Tenorio said, was getting the commitment of everyone involved since it takes a lot of time, energy and resources to make it happen.

"We hope that in the end, victims will report more, reporting will go up, that we'll be able to identify more needs in the community, where the gaps are. And so we hope that by having the SART team, we will serve victims of sexual assault better," she added.

As Sexual Assault Awareness Month is celebrated nationally and locally, Tenorio urged the public to adhere to their theme, "It's time... to get involved!"

"Sexual assault prevention and intervention is all of our responsibility. This is our community... It's time for all of us to no longer be bystanders," she emphasized.

US SENATORS

From Page 1

CNMI officials, when asked for comment, said they sympathize with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, who said he was "livid" and "extremely upset" that no one in the federal establishment informed Guam of the U.S. senators' visit.

Fitial's press secretary, Angel Demapan, said "while the full details of the trip are still unknown, we find it disturbing that such high level members of the U.S. Congress would go to Guam in secrecy and without any degree of courtesy to the leadership of the Government of Guam."

"Like the CNMI, Guam is a member of the American political family. It is disheartening to know that our brothers and sisters in the south have been made to feel like second class citizens

of America," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

To the Fitial administration's knowledge, it does not know of similar instances of such an esteemed group of congressional members coming to the Commonwealth in secrecy, said Demapan.

"This can be attributed largely to the low demand for refueling stops here. Nonetheless, we continue to be grateful for the periodic visits of congressional delegations and the courtesy visits they have conducted with the Commonwealth's leaders," he added.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), in an interview, said he fully understands where the Guam governor is coming from.

"He has every reason to feel snubbed. Just look at Japan officials. Whenever they come to Guam or the CNMI, they make sure they meet with island lead-

ers. Here we are, our very own national leaders—15 members of the U.S. Senate—did not even inform Guam they're stopping over and did not even have [a] courtesy visit to the governor," said Manglona.

He said what the members of Congress did was make Guam feel like it's not part of the American family.

"At times, even us in the CNMI feel that we're just a small rock [in the ocean] and that we're not part of the U.S. No one can question the patriotism of the Guam governor and the people of Guam," Manglona added.

These senators include Senate majority leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ken).

The others are: Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), Sen. Michael Enzi (R-Wyo.), Sen.

Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Sen. Mike Johanns (R-N.E.), Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Sen. Robert Portman (R-Ohio), and Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.).

Calvo was not aware of the U.S. senators' brief refueling stop at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam Monday morning en route to Hong Kong, until Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo asked him that morning if he would be greeting the senators with her, as she received an invitation to do so.

CNMI, Guam relations with US

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said that Monday's incident also brings to light his proposal to create a Second Marianas Political Commission and re-examine whether the people wants to continue

a Commonwealth relationship with the U.S. pursuant to the terms of the original Covenant agreement.

"I've been pushing for this for a long time," said Torres, whose bill has yet to be reported out by the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Torres said the Guam governor and senators have also been pushing for a plebiscite for voters to determine their affiliation with the U.S.

Guam Senate majority leader Rory Respicio urged the Guam governor yesterday to convene the Commission on Decolonization in light of Monday's incident.

The commission will enable Guam to conduct a plebiscite and "finally bring closure to the issue of determining our island's political status," he said.

"Under ordinary circumstances, we would have likely

had an opportunity to meet with these senators, and offer them our Team Guam perspective on ongoing buildup matters, and other issues clouding our people's view toward the federal government," he told Calvo.

Guam Speaker Judi Won Pat, in her latest weekly address, said the political relationship between the U.S. and Guam as a non-self-governing territory is unacceptable, and pushed for a plebiscite.

"First, the powers of the Organic Act of 1950, as approved by Congress, are merely delegated powers that can be changed or taken away at the will of Congress. This is unacceptable. Second, if that was not insulting enough, our duly elected delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives—Guam's sole advocate in Congress—was stripped of any remaining voting privileges. This too is unacceptable," she said.

FLY

From Page 1

April 2010. "We came up with the idea of starting this service, this air carrier services with Fly Guam, servicing Guam and other international destinations."

Santos said their mission is to promote Guam and Saipan as a tourist destination for travelers from Hong Kong, mainland China, Taiwan, Japan, the Philippines, and Korea.

"I think at this point we are coming at a proper moment as many major airlines are leaving and not having seats available for Guam and Saipan. ... We're trying to offer

those seats for travelers from these parts of the world," he explained.

According to Santos, Fly Guam currently flies one airplane, a 737-400, with a seating capacity of 144 passengers.

"In four weeks, we'll have our second plane, a 737-500 with a capacity similar to this one. This second plane is going to be doing the Philippines and Palau routes," said Santos. "About two months from now, we'll have our third plane, another 737-400 and that is going to be making China routes."

'Different from other airlines'

Santos said Fly Guam differs

from other airlines that service the region since they provide their customers with "the warm atmosphere of the islands" through the plane's interior, which features aqua-colored lighting and decorated with marine themes.

"We want to be very local in terms of what we offer to our clients from different destinations around the world," he said.

Santos said Fly Guam also has its own in-flight monthly magazine, *Hafa Adai*, the articles and photos for which are from local talents.

According to Santos, *Hafa Adai*'s maiden issue is about Guam, with the April issue to feature Saipan.

"We plan to use local talents in our magazine so as to have them show exactly what is the message that local people want for our visitors from other parts of the world to listen," he said.

Fly Guam, Santos said, also serves Chamorro cuisine prepared by renowned local chef Peter Duenas of Meskla Chamorro Fusion Bistro in Guam so that passengers can have "a real taste of Chamorro food."

April promotion

Ruth Mendiola, customer service representative at Fly Guam's Saipan office, said Fly Guam has flights three times a week.

Its Guam to Saipan flights

leave at 1:35pm and arrive at 2:25pm on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Fly Guam flies from Saipan to Hong Kong also on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, with a departure time at 3:25pm.

Flights from Hong Kong to Saipan depart at 9:55am and arrive at 5pm on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

For the month of April, Mendiola said they have promotions on their Guam and Hong Kong air fares.

A round trip ticket to Guam is only \$186.36, including taxes. A round trip ticket to Hong Kong, meanwhile, only costs \$565.40, tax inclusive.

"Our plan is to be very competitive and to have very, very accessible rates for you to fly to Guam, to Hong Kong and to different destinations [in the future]," said Santos.

Santos also disclosed that they will soon have their own frequent flyer program.

"If you take any of our flights and we haven't implemented our [frequent flyer] program yet, please keep your stubs and we'll be happy to apply those miles as soon as we get our program going," added Mendiola.

For more information, visit www.flyone.com, email saipan-reservations@flyguam.com or call 234-2FLY (2359).

EX-JUVENILE

From Page 1

gation report.

The judge clarified that the offense Fitial pleaded guilty to involved only enticement but not the actual sexual penetration.

Attorney Joseph N. Camacho, counsel for Fitial, told *Saipan Tribune* after the hear-

ing that Fitial and his family are thankful that the plea agreement removed any reference about penetration or sexual contact with the victim.

Camacho said Fitial is also thankful to the federal prosecutor for standing by the plea agreement to dismiss counts 1 and 2 at the July sentencing hearing.

"There were five different

versions negotiated by the defense and the federal prosecutors to reach a final draft. With the federal plea agreement finalized, now Tyron Fitial will be discussing the CNMI charges with the CNMI Attorney General and hopefully reach a final draft soon," he said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto said between October 2009 and February

2010, Fitial, who was then a guard at the Juvenile Detention Unit, made telephone calls from the facility to a residence, during which one or more of these calls Fitial had a conversation of a sexual nature with a female 13 to 14 years old.

Benedetto said it was Fitial's intent to get her to meet with him and that she indicated her willingness to meet him.

The prosecutor said that Commonwealth law prohibits any person 16 years of age or older from engaging in sex with a person who is 13, 14, or 15 years of age and at least three years younger than the offender.

The Office of the Attorney General has filed in the Superior Court 11 criminal charges against Fitial over the same in-

cidents.

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest charged Fitial with five counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, two counts of unlawful exploitation of a minor, one count of assault and battery, one count of misconduct in public office, one count of failure to report child abuse or neglect, and one count of sexual servitude of a minor.

Labor closes cases, appeals filed by 403 alien workers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor has announced the closure of cases and appeals filed by 403 alien workers.

Labor published in the *Saipan*

Senate panel wants update on available public lands

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

With Neo Gold Wings Paradise wanting its public land lease on Tinian reinstated for a planned \$1.6 billion casino resort and Coral Ocean Point's lease expiring, a Senate panel wants to know the status of existing land leases and other areas available to would-be investors.

Any lease of public land consisting of more than 5 hectares requires legislative approval.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, said they will call in the Department of Public Lands for an update on the status of major land leases, including that of Coral Ocean Point, Neo Gold Wings, Saipan Grand Hotel, and the area previously leased by Flame Sako Resort, among others.

"We want to assist existing

Simultaneous licensing for all poker units get House panel OK

All poker machine licenses will be issued and renewed on Jan. 1, if and when a bill that the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism will be recommending for passage becomes law.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), after a committee meeting yesterday, said the panel recommends passage of Rep. Ray Yumul's (R-Saipan) House Bill 17-145 "as is."

"We recommend its passage, especially in light of how financially tight the CNMI is right now. With all licenses and payments made all at once, we don't need to overestimate or underestimate revenues from poker machines," Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune*.

Currently, the license renewals of poker machines is spread over a 12-month period, making enforcement of the collection of the license fees difficult and time consuming, Yumul said in his bill.

HB 17-145 seeks to require all poker license fee payments to be due at the same time each year on Jan. 1 and to permit existing poker machine licenses to be renewed one time on a pro rata basis so as to coincide with the Jan. 1 license renewal payment due date.

The committee is also working on a substitute version of HB 17-75, which requires scuba dive shop operators and marine sports concessionaires to impose a \$1 surcharge per customer.

Villagomez said the panel is also holding off actions on HBs 17-133 and 17-139, which both seek to amend banking laws pending hear-

Tribune the first notice on April 11 and the second notice on Monday, April 18, of the closure of cases and appeals.

Attorney Stephen C. Woodruff told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that anyone listed in that notice who believes they have

an unresolved monetary claim should consult an attorney.

"Yes, I have a number of past and present clients on that list. Their interests are protected. If they have any questions, they should contact my office," Woodruff said.

According to Labor, the cas-

es brought by or for the aliens listed in the notice that were recorded as pending in Labor or in Commonwealth courts at the time umbrella permits were issued have been finally concluded. Included are appeals or those submitted by Labor for

requiring legislative approval for DPL to obtain the best offer available for such properties.

Because of a death in the family of DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, the Senate panel decided to push back the committee meeting to April 28.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **April 20**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **April 20**.

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TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

dismissal by the court.

"All aliens who declared pending cases were issued umbrella permits regardless of whether they were in status or out of status at the time," Labor said.

Labor said the umbrella permit of each alien listed in the notice has been reclassified from "case pending" to "240K, work authorized" and continues in force through Nov. 27, 2011.

Labor said no action is needed by the complainant or petitioner as this is done automatically on Labor's records.

Labor said affected persons have 15 days from April 18 to appeal.

Woodruff urged every alien to take action now to secure their

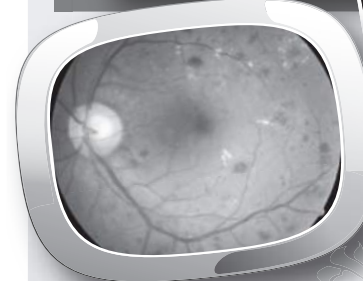
status after Nov. 28, 2011.

"The time is ticking. As of today, there are only seven months and 10 days left," Woodruff said.

The lawyer said the urgent fact that all aliens in the CNMI should keep in mind right now is that CNMI-derivative immigration status under the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (federalization law) and U.S. immigration law expires on Nov. 27 of this year.

"Like Cinderella's carriage, umbrella permits will turn into pumpkins at the stroke of midnight on Nov. 28, 2011," Woodruff said.

He said his office is working on developing strategies and plans to assist alien workers.



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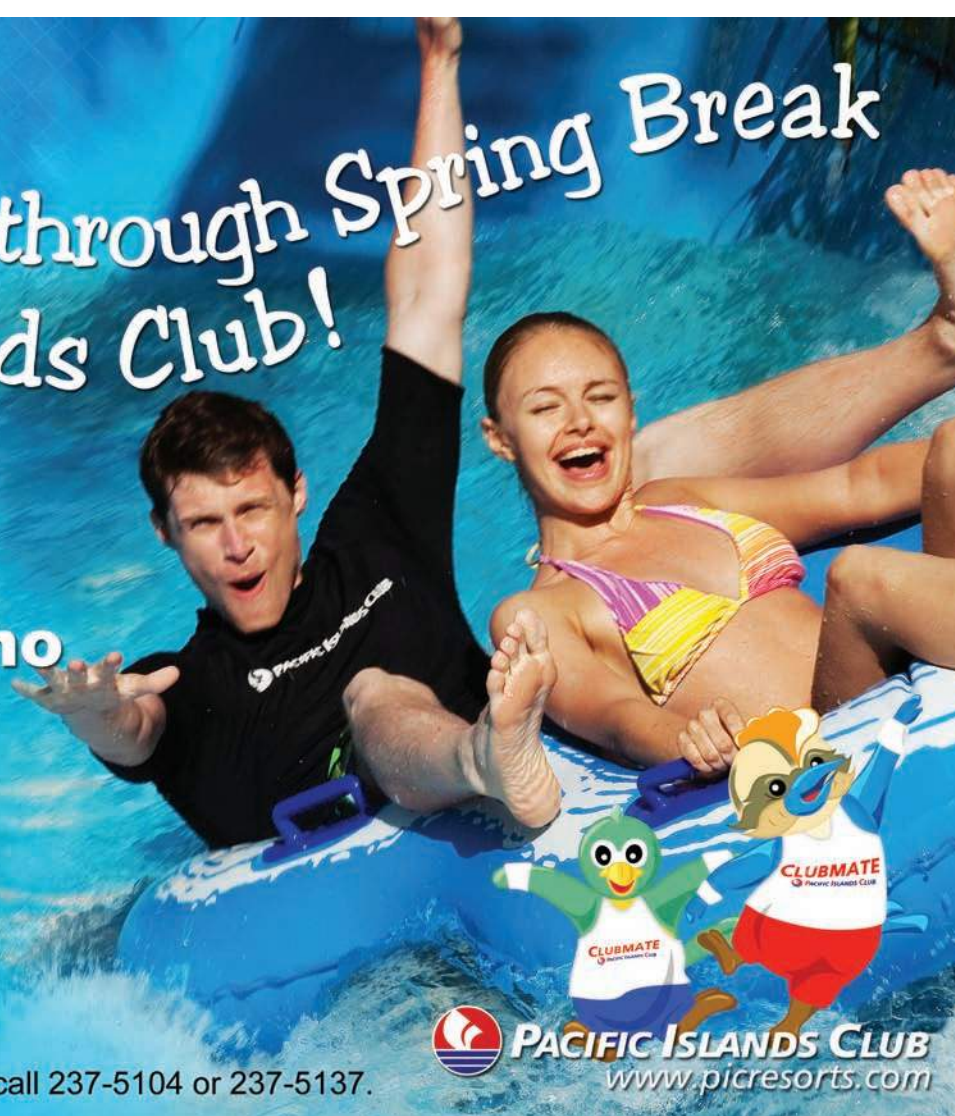
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Group of powerful US senators secretly arrive in Guam

»Guam governor calls on US Senate to end its bipartisan colonialism

HAGATNA, Guam—Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo found out Monday morning that 15 percent of the U.S. Senate landed on Guam in secrecy that day. The contingent includes the Senate majority and minority leaders and other powerful U.S. senators.

Calvo, a member of the National Governors Association and the Republican Governors Association, said these U.S. senators, both Democrat and Republican, have decided to thumb their noses at the island and its government. He issued the following statement about how this snub can severely affect Guam colonial-federal relations as the U.S. government pushes a \$15-billion realignment of Asian-Pacific forces in Guam:

"[Monday] morning, Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo asked whether I would be greeting the 15 U.S. senators scheduled to arrive at Guam's Andersen Air Force Base today. We were both surprised and extremely upset that no one in the federal establishment informed Guam of their visit. We called the Navy to verify this stopover and we were told that the U.S. senators will not entertain any meeting or discussions with Guam leaders or the Guamanian people. Instead of landing at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam, they have decided to shield their visit in secrecy and land within the confines of Andersen Air Force Base.

"In the 100 years we have been a colony of the United States, the U.S. government hardly did anything to resolve our colonial status. What kind of democracy allows colonialism to flourish? I am livid the U.S. Senate, a body created by

the will of the people of 13 colonies who wanted freedom and democracy, would turn its back on the Guamanian people. It is obvious we are not part of their constituency, and they do not consider us a valuable part of the American family. This only serves to inflame our long-held belief that we are an American colony of second-class citizens who matter only when our geopolitical position is needed by the U.S. government.

"This is a sad state of affairs. This is the third time in the last year that Congress has made it clear that we are of no importance to the nation. This snub follows Congress trying to sell our own resources to us at Fena and Congress taking away our Delegate's voting power in House committees. These U.S. senators are only hurting American interests abroad. Look at the great relationship we've built with the U.S. military. Congress' actions only undermine that work. Why? If Guam was so important to U.S. strategic interests, then why would the nation's leaders continue snubbing Guamanians?

"If the Senate wants to thumb its nose at Guamanians, then perhaps it is time for Guamanians to call in every injustice ever committed upon our people by the U.S. government. And we can start with the Insular Cases of the 1900s that said people of color were separate but equal. How many times have Guamanians answered the call to serve? How many have died for a democracy that doesn't even fully apply to us? How many more times must Guamanians

accept colonial treatment before Congress ever recognizes that our voices count, too? How much more oppression can our people take before they get fed up and tell the Congress to take their buildup somewhere else?

"We can have the greatest relationship with the U.S. military and the Department of the Interior, but if Congress continues ignoring Guam like the colony it is, we will never truly enjoy the America that the Marines of 1944 fought and died to bring to Guam. What happened to the pledge of a "One Guam" policy? It's clear these U.S. senators have no intention of uniting our best interests. To them, there is

an American inside a military fenceline, and an American colony outside of it. They want nothing to do with that colony. Here is yet another compelling reason the Guam Legislature, Lt. Gov. Tenorio and I are working together to call for a vote of self-determination. We cannot continue on as a colony of the United States. We should either be a part of the U.S., with voting membership in the House and Senate and the right to vote for President, or we should govern ourselves. This is a message we will share with U.S. Senators Jim Webb and Carl Levin when they visit with us next week. At least these gentlemen have the

consideration and decency to meet with their fellow Americans in Guam.

"I want Guamanians living in the U.S. States where these U.S. senators are from to remember what these U.S. senators did to Guam in the next national elections."

Guam is an organized unincorporated territory of the United States, a colonial status that has not changed. Its residents are called Guamanians and were granted U.S. citizenship by an act of Congress called the Organic Act of 1948. Only certain provisions of the Constitution's Bill of Rights apply to the residents of Guam. Guamanians

have among the highest enlistment rates in the U.S. military.

There are 183,000 Guamanians living in Guam. An unknown number reside throughout the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, and Alaska. A 2000 census of those who call themselves Chamorro (the ethnicity indigenous to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or part-Chamorro says that 33,849 Chamorros alone live in California. This does not include the broader number of Guamanians of other ethnic backgrounds who live in California. According to the 2000 Census, nearly 100,000 Chamorros live in the 50 States and Puerto Rico. (*Office of the Governor of Guam*)

ADA designs and specifications for modifications and upgrading of managaha restrooms and dressing rooms are available at Tasi Tours office.

These designs and specifications can be picked-up between 9:00am to 11:00am and between 1:00pm to 3:00pm from April 14, 2011 to April 22, 2011 only.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-020

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office spaces for CUC's Administration and Operation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The specification may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-020, Lease of Office Space CUC's Administration and Operation"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM, (CST) local time on **May 19, 2011**. Late submission will not be considered.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **May 9, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-025

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR POWER DIVISION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office spaces for CUC's Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The specification may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-025, Lease of Office Space, Power Division, T&D"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM, (ChST) local time on **May 20, 2011**. Late submission will not be considered.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) local time on May 9, 2011** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Tourism Month and Taste of Marianas both return in May

Tourism organizations and the Northern Marianas community are gearing up to celebrate Tourism Month and 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden in May.

Tourism Month kicks off early with the semi-annual Japan Saipan Travel Association Tourism Industry Clean-up slated for Monday, April 25, in Garapan. The clean-up precedes Japan's Golden Week holiday period and will begin at 6:30am at American Memorial Park.

The Marianas Visitors Authority is also encouraging residents to prepare for other another Tourism Month must-do, demonstrating their island pride and culture by wearing island attire or traditional wear during *Hafa Adai-Tirow* Spirit Islandwear Day each Friday. Facebook fans of "*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Islandwear in the Northern Mariana Islands" who post pictures in May have a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens. One randomly selected fan with an islandwear photo will receive \$10 in tokens each week.

Tourism trivia will also be conducted on local radio stations, with Taste of the Marianas tokens and Tourism Month T-shirts available for the winners.

Hundreds of visitors and residents are expected to gather for the Taste of the Marianas, which kicks off on May 7, 2011, and will continue every Saturday evening beginning at 6pm throughout the month at American Memorial Park.

Local hotels and restaurants will offer fine fare at reasonable fare, with most dinner items at \$6 or less. Throughout the evening, live entertainment was offered on the main stage while secondary entertainment and competitions will take place at the secondary stage.

Festivities on May 7 will include the opening ceremony at 6pm, followed by live entertainment on the main stage. On the secondary stage, two heats of the Hotdog Eating Competition will be held at 8pm and 9pm. Participants for competition can register on site on a first-come, first-serve basis.

A Hot Soba Eating Competition will be held on May 14, while the Bartenders' Cocktail Competition will follow on May 21. The Chefs Competition on May 28 will pit hotel junior chefs in a cook-off highlighting a select cut of Certified Angus Beef and local ingredients.

Arts and crafts will also be on sale, and the festival will also give attendees the opportunity to stay up-to-date on the latest NMI tourism trends through nightly My Marianas slideshow presentations. (MVA)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 20, 1999

Economic woes compound domestic stress

As the CNMI wages a campaign against violence, its populace are coping to lead a harmonious life amid threats of lay-off and shorter working hours. Both are contributing to the daily issues one has to deal with and some people are seeking momentary refuge in drinking. According to Bob McGinnas of the victim hotline, although the number of calls his office has been getting does not record a dramatic change but drinking often ends up in a fight. "People are drinking more because they have problems and they get into a fight," he said. The victim hotline is particularly concerned not only on domestic fights between adults but those that affect the children.

New projects eyed as a compromise

The Legislature is likely to add on the list of capital improvement projects a proposed water drilling on Saipan and several secondary road construction on Rota and Tinian in apparent move to appease lawmakers dissatisfied over the CIP master plan. Rep. Karl T. Reyes, chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, said he would sit down with finance officials to try to identify local funds for the additional projects, which might not be eligible for federal grants provided under Section 702 of the Covenant. The proposal, however, will be limited only to the water improvement plans on Saipan, particularly in the northern part, as well as road projects on Rota and Tinian, at a cost of millions of dollars in additional infrastructure expenditure.

April 20, 2000

Protest vs Continental gets MVA backing

Marianas Visitors Authority Board Chair Dave M. Sablan yesterday backed the decision of the Commonwealth Ports Authority not to endorse the application of Continental Micronesia to renew its regular flights to Sapporo and Sendai in Japan. Continental Micronesia is seeking to renew its five weekly Saipan-Guam-Sapporo flights and daily Saipan-Guam-Sendai air transport service. Since Continental has stated that it does not have immediate plans of resuming direct flights to Saipan from any Asian destinations, Mr. Sablan said the CNMI should be given the chance to entice other airlines to takeover the routes abandoned by the airline.

CUC asked to slash power rate charged to Dynasty

Tinian officials have prodded the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to cut its power rate charged to large commercial users in the municipality in an effort to help the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino hook-up with the island's power plant. Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano, chair of the Tinian legislative delegation, said they want the government-owned utility corporation to lower the present commercial rate of 16 cents to 12 cents per kilowatt-hour to ease financial difficulties confronting the hotel and casino. The CUC board is reviewing the proposal which was broached during its recent meeting. Mr. Adriano expressed hope it will grant the request, after the initial attempt drew lukewarm response from utility officials.

April 20, 2001

Saipan harbor posts \$25M in revenues

The Commonwealth government generated more than \$25 million in revenues from active businesses at the Saipan International Harbor since the completion of its multi-million improvement project in 1999. Based on the Saipan Seaport FY2000 Summary of Revenue Tonnage, the harbor division made more than \$9 million from inbound, outbound, transshipment, and cement throughput alone. Saipan Seaport Manager Tony Cabrera said the harbor generated more than 483,069.427 revenue tons and 190,299.446 revenue tons for both inbound and outbound cargoes from October 1999 to September 2000.

Tinian businessmen slams CUC's power rate increase

Tinian Chamber of Commerce President Phillip Mendiola-Long blasted the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation for its recent decision to increase rates on Tinian and Rota by 300 percent. "These guys are out of their mind if they think the communities of Tinian and Rota are going to stand by and allow them to raise the power rate by 300 percent," said Mr. Mendiola-Long. CUC is now reviewing the imposition of 32.45 cents per KWH for Tinian residential consumers and 47.2 cents per KWH for commercial consumers. "How do they think businesses and families are going to survive such a drastic rate increase? It is bad enough that we are suffering a hampered economy, not to mention, Tinian and Rota only receive the economic crumbs from Saipan, now we have CUC treating Tinian and Rota like foreign countries," he added.

Triple J Motors donates Hyundai Tucson GL for hole-in-one prize

In support of higher education in the CNMI, Triple J Motors is sponsoring a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 9th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open golf tournament. The prize, a brand new Hyundai Tucson GL, will be up for grabs if a lucky player were to make a hole-in-one at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (West Course) Hole No. 17.

"Triple J Motors is excited to sponsor a hole-in-one prize for the NMC Foundation Open golf tournament," said Ben Lizama, Triple J Motors sales manager. "Supporting higher education has always been an important priority for us."

The prize sponsorship was



Ben Lizama sales manager of Triple J Motors presents Ben Babauta NMC Foundation president the keys to a brand new Hyundai Tucson GL that is up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize in the upcoming 9th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament slated for April 30, 2011, at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (West Course).

presented in support of the NMC Foundation's efforts to raise funds for educational programs and services.

"The NMC Foundation thanks Triple J Motors for its sponsorship," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation. "The Hyundai Tucson GL will be a big draw for golfers."

The 9th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament will be held on Saturday April 30, 2011, at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (West Course) with a show time of 6am and a shotgun start at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

In addition to hole-in-one prizes, there are first, second,

and third place prizes for the different flights, which are: Championship, A, B, C, ladies and seniors. The first place prize for each flight is a round trip ticket on Continental Airlines to destinations in Asia and Micronesia with cash. For second and third place the prize is cash.

For information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 at extension 1050. The fee is \$95 per person. Registration forms can be downloaded or picked up at the NMC Cashier's Office, Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, or Triple J Motors. (NMC)

First Friday Films marks CNMI Earth Day with two new films

The people voted and the results are in! Starting today, April 20, First Friday Films will be showing two new films that received the most votes in our Environmental Awareness Month contest. Come celebrate CNMI Earth Day, watch these films, and get inspired to take action.

The Mighty River and *Recyclergy* will be screened at American Memorial Park Visitors Center three times—twice in the afternoon and once at night.

The Mighty River is an Academy Award-nominated animated film that tells the story of the St.

Lawrence River. "Magtogoek," as it is called by the Mi'kmaq people. Its waters, which once teemed with animal and plant life, today bear witness to decades of over-exploitation and industrial pollution.

Recyclergy is a short film examining a fading subculture. After the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, community, non-profit recycling centers began to pop up in schools, garages, and neighborhood centers all sharing the goal of bringing recycling to their cities. Now only two non-profit recycling

organizations remain in San Francisco. Despite the lack of surviving community recycling centers, the Bay Area is still home to a unique community of recyclers who push the envelope of possibilities.

APRIL 20

- 1pm: *The Mighty River*
- 4pm: *Recyclergy*
- 6pm: *The Mighty River*

APRIL 21

- 1pm: *Recyclergy*
- 4pm: *The Mighty River*
- 6pm: *Recyclergy*

First Friday Films is a monthly environmental film series organized by the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality with generous support from organizations such as the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and the Marianas Nature Alliance.

As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public. Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. (PR)

Two sailors arrested by Guam police

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Guam Police Department arrested Friday two sailors attached to the Naval Base Guam.

Master at Arms Seaman Marcos Gabriel Martinez, 23, and Master at Arms Petty Officer Second Class Victor Hugo Martinez-Ibarra, 24, are assigned to the Naval Base Guam Security Department.

The two were arrested as the result of a disturbance that occurred early in the morning of April 10 that was previously reported in the media.

They were charged in the Superior Court of Guam and were later released.

An investigation is underway and Naval Base Guam will cooperate fully with that investigation and any court proceedings.

One of the charges involved the alleged use of a privately owned firearm. Navy security personnel are prohibited from retaining their weapons when off-duty.

Both sailors are scheduled for arraignment in early May. (PR)

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

**AMENDMENT #02
INVITATION FOR BID**

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

EXTENSION BID SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2011 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2011-006

"REHABILITATION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX TELESOPIC BLEACHERS & FLOORING"

(Amendment #02 is to: amend the bid submission date on April 21, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. to April 29, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.)

Proposal packets will be available on April 12, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2011, at the proposed project site at the Susupe Sports Gymnasium Complex – Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

**AMENDMENT #02
INVITATION FOR BID**

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

EXTENSION BID SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2011 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2010-015

"REHABILITATION OF THE DANDAN CHILDREN'S PARK"

(Amendment #02 is to: amend the bid submission date on April 21, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. to April 29, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.)

Proposal packets will be available on April 12, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2011, at the proposed project site Dandan, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that Mr. Paul Zak's duties as a consultant with Oleai Beach Bar & Grill and OIC Marianas Insurance ended effective January 1, 2011.

At no time did Mr. Paul Zak have any ownership or authority to enter into any contracts with either company.

We wish Mr. Paul Zak good luck as he moves onto other opportunities.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SARACA	044E	4/9 Sat	4/7 Thu	4/7 Thu	4/5 Tue	4/2 Sat	4/15 Fri	4/11 Mon	4/10 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/11 Mon	4/15 Fri	4/17 Sun	4/19 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	015E	4/16 Sat	4/14 Thu	4/14 Thu	4/12 Tue	4/9 Sat	4/22 Fri	4/18 Mon	4/17 Sun	4/10 Sun	4/10 Sun	4/18 Mon	4/22 Fri	4/24 Sun	4/26 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	054E	4/23 Sat	4/21 Thu	4/21 Thu	4/19 Tue	4/16 Sat	4/29 Fri	4/25 Mon	4/24 Sun	4/17 Sun	4/17 Sun	4/25 Mon	4/29 Fri	5/1 Sun	5/3 Tue
MELL SARACA	045E	4/30 Sat	4/28 Thu	4/28 Thu	4/26 Tue	4/23 Sat	5/6 Fri	5/2 Mon	5/1 Sun	4/24 Sun	4/24 Sun	5/2 Mon	5/6 Fri	5/8 Sun	5/10 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	016E	5/7 Sat	5/5 Thu	5/5 Thu	5/3 Tue	4/30 Sat	5/13 Fri	5/9 Mon	5/8 Sun	5/1 Sun	5/1 Sun	5/9 Mon	5/13 Fri	5/15 Sun	5/17 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	055E	5/14 Sat	5/12 Thu	5/12 Thu	5/10 Tue	5/7 Sat	5/20 Fri	5/16 Mon	5/15 Sun	5/8 Sun	5/8 Sun	5/16 Mon	5/20 Fri	5/22 Sun	5/24 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SARACA	044E	4/23 Sat	4/24 Sun	4/24 Sun	4/26 Tue	4/27 Wed	4/29 Fri	5/1 Sun	SKIP	5/6 Fri	5/7 Sat	5/12 Thu	5/31 Tue	5/11 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	015E	4/30 Sat	5/1 Sun	5/1 Sun	SKIP	5/4 Wed	5/6 Fri	5/8 Sun	SKIP	5/13 Fri	5/14 Sat	5/19 Thu	6/7 Tue	5/18 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	054E	5/7 Sat	5/8 Sun	5/8 Sun	5/10 Tue	5/11 Wed	5/13 Fri	5/15 Sun	SKIP	5/20 Fri	5/21 Sat	5/26 Thu	6/14 Tue	5/25 Wed
MELL SARACA	045E	5/14 Sat	5/15 Sun	5/15 Sun	SKIP	5/18 Wed	5/20 Fri	5/22 Sun	SKIP	5/27 Fri	5/28 Sat	6/2 Thu	6/21 Tue	6/1 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	016E	5/21 Sat	5/22 Sun	5/22 Sun	5/15 Sun	5/25 Wed	5/27 Fri	5/29 Sun	SKIP	6/3 Fri	6/4 Sat	6/9 Thu	6/28 Tue	6/8 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	055E	5/28 Sat	5/29 Sun	5/29 Sun	SKIP	6/1 Wed	6/3 Fri	6/5 Sun	SKIP	6/10 Fri	6/11 Sat	6/16 Thu	7/5 Tue	6/15 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

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By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ
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Los Angeles Times. Readers may send
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nists.com.

Our civility deficit

Last week, after the brutal beating of a San Francisco Giants fan in the Los Angeles Dodgers Stadium parking lot, Los Angeles and San Francisco officials issued a public plea for more “civility and common decency” among sports fans. In January, the shootings in Tucson in which six people were killed and 13 wounded, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, sparked a national conversation on civility in politics. The following month, the University of Arizona established the National Institute for Civil Discourse to advocate greater civility in all corners of the public square.

Americans are clearly worried about their behavior toward one another; polls bear this out. And our obsession with our own uncivil behavior is nothing new. Lack of common courtesy is a longstanding American character flaw impossible to eradicate. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't keep trying.

Last August, Rasmussen Reports found that 69 percent of Americans think their countrymen are “becoming more rude and less civilized.” A more comprehensive April 2010 poll by Weber Shandwick revealed that 94 percent of respondents considered the general tone and level of civility in the country to be a problem. Nearly three-quarters of respondents believed that the level of incivility has worsened over the past few years.

Where are we at our worst? In politics and on the highways. In a rare example of graciousness, respondents told pollsters that they blamed the decline in civility on themselves—the public—more than on politicians or the media.

But social historians say we have an excuse. Democratic culture is part of the problem. A society that empowers—almost requires—people to behave as individuals isn't going to find it easy to forge a consensus on manners and etiquette, let alone live by it. In a political culture driven by the rights of individuals, we spend precious little time thinking about the common good, let alone shared mores.

I'll never forget that day in high school government class when the teacher had all the students stand up and put their arms out to each side to illustrate that our rights extended to the tips of our fingers, exactly where our neighbor's rights began. It wasn't exactly a lesson in community, shared norms and social cohesion.

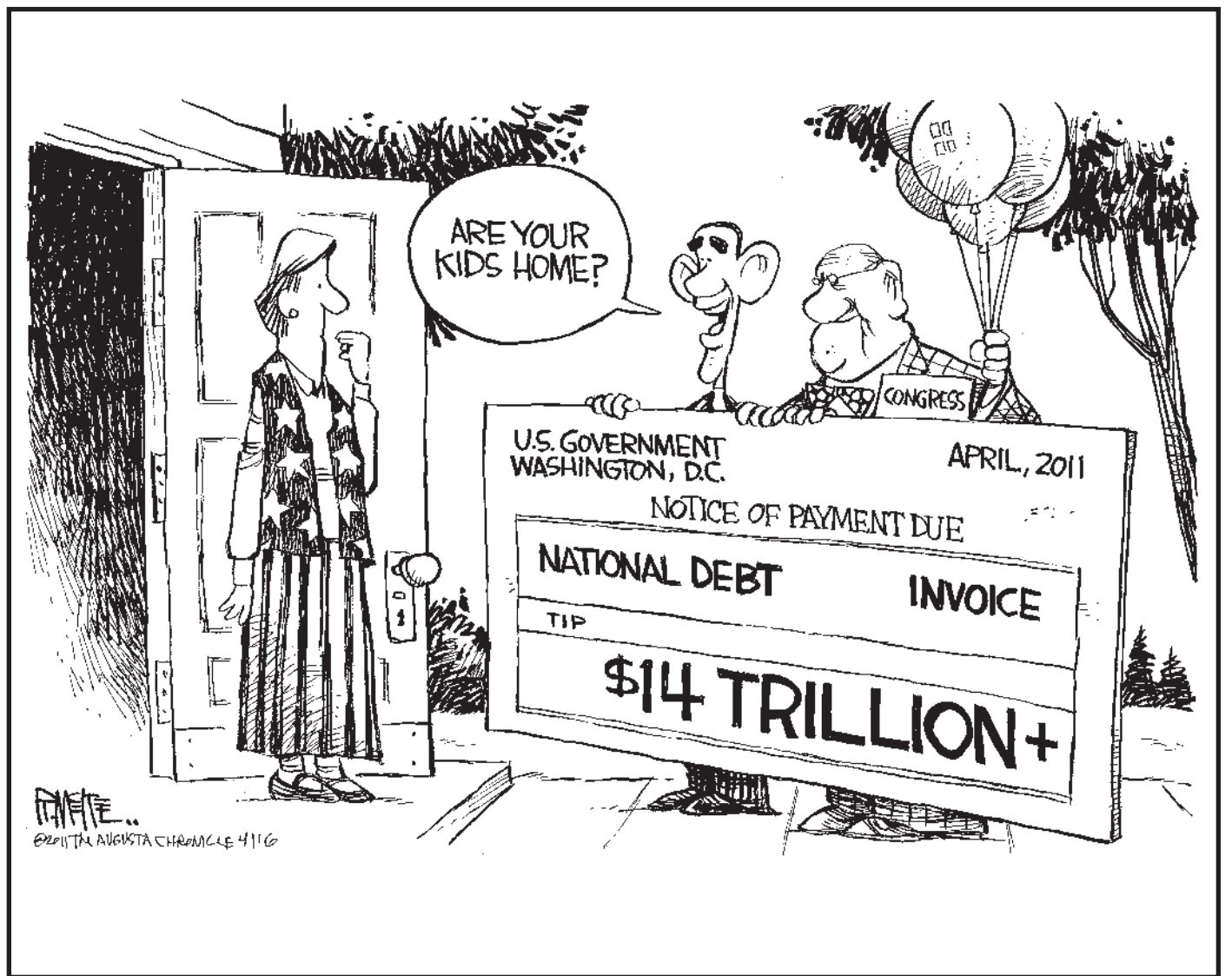
Truth be told, because we reject the class differences and stark social demarcations that characterized older, more hierarchical societies, we lack the cultural infrastructure that encourages “manners.”

Elbowing our way to maximum geographic and social mobility is more our style. In 1795, a disillusioned immigrant complained that “civility cannot be purchased from (Americans) on any terms; they seem to think it is incompatible with freedom.”

Frances Trollope, in 1832, put a finer point on it: “Any man's son may become the equal of any other man's son; and the consciousness of this is certainly a spur to exertion: on the other hand, it is also a spur to that coarse familiarity, untempered by any shadow of respect, which is assumed by the grossest and the lowest in their intercourse with the highest and most refined.”

Still, every so often, Americans are seized by what Fordham University cultural critic Mark Caldwell calls “periodic attacks

See OUR on next page



The best remedy for the price of gas

By DAN BECKER and JAMES GERSTENZANG
LOS ANGELES TIMES

There is no magic wand that will bring down the price of gasoline, which has once again crossed the \$4 mark. But there is a long-term solution that will inoculate us from higher costs in the future.

The Obama administration can't do much to lower the price of a gallon of gas, but it is on the cusp of a crucial decision that could help consumers come out ahead because they would need less gas.

Officials are quietly working on just how steeply to require the auto industry to cut emissions and increase mileage in the next generation of cars, SUVs and pickups. Their decision, coming as early as May, could require dramatically cleaner vehicles that would cut carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 6 percent a year and average 62 miles per gallon. The new rules would be phased in from 2017 to 2025.

Obviously, using less gas is good for the environment. It means less carbon dioxide pollution and smog. It also boosts our energy security—a big deal, given the uncertainty of oil supplies from troubled regions and often unsavory players—and saves us money at the pump. That beats sending our dollars overseas.

The auto industry argues that it is already making clean cars and that having to meet steeper emissions cuts would raise prices. It is lobbying to hold the cut to 3 percent.

How much is at stake? If we do what the automakers want, U.S. consumers would use 217 million more barrels of oil in 2025 than at 6 percent—and send \$16 billion more per year to foreign oil producers.

To be sure, there are other proposals being kicked around to provide relief at the pump. But they won't do much.

Tap the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to increase the supply of gasoline? That's a Band-Aid at best. It won't have any effect on long-term prices or supplies.

Increase domestic oil production by opening up more offshore drilling operations? That won't work either: Projects would take years to come on stream and would only increase our oil addiction, the heart of the problem. As for the environment, wasn't it only a year ago that BP's Gulf of Mexico disaster brought home once again how risky offshore drilling can be?

Rather than drill more oil out of the gulf, we should extract it from Detroit—through more efficient cars. California's 2002 Pavley law, the nation's first regulating greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle tailpipes, was a start in that direction and has set the nation on a course toward lower auto emissions. President Obama built on the law in 2009, unveiling new tailpipe standards under the Clean

Air Act that will cut emissions 5 percent a year by 2016.

But that's only a piece of what's needed. Looking ahead to the 2017-25 standards, the administration is weighing the cost of technology needed to achieve a range of emissions reductions against the benefits of reduced energy use, a cleaner environment and, of course, a smaller gasoline bill. Its analysis found the greatest overall savings occurred when emissions are reduced by 6 percent a year.

A study conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that savings on gasoline would more than make up for the cost of the technology that delivers better mileage and lower emissions, with the break-even point for consumers coming at four years after purchasing a more efficient car. Indeed, investing \$3,500 in technology per vehicle would produce \$9,700 in gasoline savings over the car's life, the study found.

This is auto mechanics, not rocket science. Automakers have the ability today to deliver more efficient vehicles by utilizing such existing technologies as high-strength lightweight steel, advanced transmissions and fuel-sipping engines in conventionally powered vehicles. And they can also offer more hybrids and electric vehicles.

Some automakers even acknowledge that they can hit the higher efficiency target. Just listen to Jim Colon, Toyota's vice president for product communications.

“Toyota will be prepared to meet” whatever standards the administration sets, he said this year at the Washington Auto Show. “If it's 62 miles a gallon, we'll be able to achieve that.”

Even GM—a famous innovation laggard despite its plug-in Chevy Volt—says that it can join the race.

What automakers need is the prod of stringent standards, not the cushion of another bailout.

Of course, some in Congress and the auto industry are lobbying for weak standards or none at all. They would show us cars with tailfins and whitewalls—with extra floor mats thrown in—and cede the market to companies selling high-mileage, low-emission cars. That's a proven route to bankruptcy.

How often does the president get to solve three problems at once? By cutting emissions 6% annually, he also slashes our oil addiction and saves consumers billions at the pump.

That's a deal for the history books.

Dan Becker is director of the Safe Climate Campaign, a Washington environmental organization advocating tough measures against global warming. James Gerstenzang, a former Los Angeles Times correspondent, is the campaign's editorial director. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Acquisition of property

The land alienation provision under the Covenant Agreement was a “transitional” tool of protection for indigenous landowners from “exploitation” during its formative years or late ’70s and ’80s. The U.S. Delegation offered it in the 1972 Covenant Negotiations.

It was clear that such provision was intended as “transitional.” It permits for the education, growth, and increased sophistication of our people. It also provided that we revisit the same provision 25 years later. A lot has happened since 33 years ago when Article XII kicked in 1978. We are here today discussing this issue.

The alienation of land under the Covenant opened up critical constitutional questions by legal scholars who have critically reviewed the agreement. One asked whether the U.S. Congress didn’t overreach its authority by unilaterally approving the race-based Article XII that denied other U.S. citizens equal protection guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution?

If the U.S. Congress overreached its authority, then it stands to reason that Section 805 is unconstitutional; therefore Article XII suffers the same fate as a consequence of the original action of Congress. But this ought to be challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court at a later date. We need answers with finality.

Indeed, the focus is to prevent land exploitation during the initial period of self-government, though it leaves the “other” U.S. citizens dangling, given the absence of “equal protection” under the law of the land.

The right to own property is a fundamental law (not a legislative law) that is an enduring provision of the U.S. Constitution that is non-negotiable. In short, each of us is entitled to equal protection of federal, state, and county laws. No one is exempted from it; therefore we must learn to proactively use our collective moral obligation to protect it to the hilt by repealing Article XII.

The ‘other’ real estate firms

But the most egregious and fraudulently offensive creature of Article XII that we’ve conveniently ignored is the exploitation of land-

owners by our very own people. Here’s the scenario: Over the last decade, what I call the “other” real estate scheme formed companies in concert with rich Orientals.

So far they have successfully sought and bought the balance of 55-year leases from landowners. The deal is a bit more money but the landowner must agree that he surrenders landownership when the terms and conditions of the lease expires. We didn’t see this form of land acquisition coming, did we?

So what’s wrong with this method of land acquisition? Firstly, you rob the landowner of his property by offering what basically is alms in his moment of need. Secondly, you rob him of future opportunities to continue earning more money by renewing the lease of his land upon expiration. The amount is substantial, which gives birth to what I call land sharks!

This is another substantive reason why this discriminatory land policy must be repealed in its entirety forthwith. Repealing it would force every land deal to be placed on the table for reasonable negotiations. Most importantly, it forces honesty in any and all land transactions where the landowner commands for the real market value of his property.

Meaning of ‘inalienable’ property

For thousands of years, history’s learned men have debated and written about the rights to property: state vs. individual. These discussions came even before biblical times. The premise of such rights was also reiterated in the Bible. But there’s the cumulative philosophical consensus of the natural rights of individuals otherwise known as inalienable property.

One of the founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, inserted the following in the U.S. Constitution, “That all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator to certain inalienable rights.”

What constitutes “inalienable property”? A professor emeritus of history from Harvard University had this to say: “It includes all those things that belong so essentially to one person that they cannot belong to another, such as a person’s life, body, freedom, or honor.”

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section



Thus was born the idea that one’s essence cannot be removed from one’s physical being, that that essence, that dignity, is the property of each individual.

The professor further asserted, “When we think about property we think first of the obvious—what might be in our pockets or under our feet. But our most important possessions are our life, our liberty, and our prerogative to do with each as we wish. The idea that we have a property right in our own lives was truly an epiphany, especially after thousands of years of subjugation in the form of institutionalized slavery and law without rights found in virtually every society.”

He also shared the view that property is the “root of progress because its individual possession is the source of the alleviation of human suffering. The acquisition and personal control of property, founded in a quest for security and satisfaction, allows for a cascade of benefits to all, albeit in differing proportions. This enables property, because of, not in spite of its unequal distribution, to be a universal good.”

As difficult as it may be, it remains our collective moral obligation to uphold the application of “equal protection” for ALL citizens under the laws of our country. In spite of its imperfection, it is also our moral obligation that we strive for a more perfect union and that we pass our success on to our children so they too can benefit from the essence of the first principles. Let’s employ the abundance mentality for there’s something for everyone by working for it in unity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bon voyage

The Bicol Association in Northern Mariana Islands (Bianmi, Inc.) and friends would like to extend our warmest and sincere appreciation to Mr. Jose Rey B. Madrilejos of the Philippine Consulate General’s Office for serving fellow Filipinos on the islands of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian as a consular assistant and ATN officer, as a community member, and a great public servant.

Come April 25, 2011, Rey and his wife Tess will be on their way back to the Philippines. We are sad to note that his six-year tour of duty as a consular officer on Saipan is about to end. Good luck on your future endeavor Rey and best wishes on your future assignment. Rest assured that your professionalism in assisting OFWs will always within our hearts and minds. Bon voyage to you and your wife on your way back home to the Philippines.

On behalf of the Bicol Association of Saipan and the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects, we wish you both good luck, God bless, *mabuhay ka kabayan!* Bless you and more power, *Mabalos!*

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

The price you pay

The \$5.05 per gallon gas price on Rota or Tinian is nothing compared to \$7.65 per gallon in Germany. The point is, as long you have a car to drive or use, you pay the price for this commodity. But then again, one must find alternative ways to save gas or not pay for it. What one does without gasoline sure makes a lot of sense or does it?

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Beat of the drums

My sister, an alumnae of the University of Oregon, is currently on island for vacation. She was invited by a cousin of ours to watch a Tahitian dinner show. After the show, she explained that the performers performed Tahitian, Hawaiian, Cook Island, and New Zealand style dances. She said all of the performers were the same people performing all the dances. She said she didn’t mind that, but she said we should really promote our Chamorro dances, especially for the tourists. She said she can’t even remember how Chamorro dancing looks like. I told her, “Same is true for the flame tree arts festivities.” I think it’s true what people say that we are slowly losing our cultural heritage one day at a time. Let’s bring sexy back.

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

A couple of questions

Anyone reading the recent article, “Food stamp benefits to be cut by 26.71 pct. starting May 1” and then visiting Saipan will ask: Why are all the locals taking food stamps while all the jobs are going to Filipinos and other foreign workers? I know there are jobs on Saipan. There are so many undocumented foreigners (illegals) and so many workers from PI on the island earning a living. Spend the FS funds to deport illegals, bar foreign workers for now, and make locals take the jobs. Are locals too proud to earn the low minimum wage but not too proud to take free handouts? I hear the word Chamorro Pride all the time. Is this it? Don’t compare it to Guam; Guam suffers from military occupation and gets a reward for it. Mainland U.S. taxpayers are getting fed up with charity. If locals won’t take jobs then fund food stamps on Saipan with a tourist tax, *not mine!*

Robert Adolph
Gifu, Japan

Clarification

There is a serious factual error in Ed Propst’s letter to the editor (April 18, 2011) that must be corrected so that the public is not misinformed.

The Marpi power pole project is not a CUC initiated project and is therefore not funded or proposed to be funded out of CUC rates. Therefore, the base rate increase that was proposed has nothing to do with the Marpi power pole project. As for the effect on the rates of having additional paying customers (as opposed to slow paying or non-paying customers), it would tend to stabilize or lower rates.

Secondly, I would like to thank Mr. Anthony Pellegrino for his “call to arms” and pointing out Singapore’s success. That’s right, if you have lived on Saipan for more than 10 years, take a close look in the mirror, stop whining, and attack the numerous challenges we face instead of creating more problems or more work for attorneys.

Abe Utu Malae
Executive director, CUC

Shoot to kill

I read in the *Saipan Tribune* that the proposed casino bill will be killed in the Senate. It is sad and quite unfortunate that our senators would just pour down the drain a \$1.6 million investment in the CNMI at a time when our economy needs all the help we can garner, especially in investments coming from outside to help our dying economy. Yes, the investor wants to make money but at the same time the CNMI will benefit from its business here. Look, 300 positions in the government will simply be erased because there is not enough revenue to fund them in fiscal year 2012. The above proposed investment will offset some of lost revenues to our government.

Teddy Guiao
Navy Hill, Saipan

OUR

From Page 10

over their manners.” Caldwell points to upticks in the sales of etiquette books at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. That today’s handwringing coincides with another century mark seems to suggest that we are either nastier to each other or more self-conscious about our behavior at transitional moments in history.

This time, according to Yale law professor Stephen Carter, we may have reached a particularly low point. More and more, Americans are losing a sense of common purpose, and with it, the reason to be polite: “There are no bounds because there are no fellow passengers whose lives or needs or hopes we must respect.”

Is civility enough to ask of people? That’s the goal we hear about—manners, and the harnessing of emotions and desires for the sake of others. But when we’re grappling with campaign ads that

superimpose target sights on candidates’ heads or the brutish behavior of baseball fans, is that enough?






Pier M. Forni, the founder of the Civility Initiative at Johns Hopkins University suggests the answer is no. He cites the Henry James standard. Only three things in life are important, James said: “The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind.”

On the highway during rush hour? Fat chance. Let’s settle for civility.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77

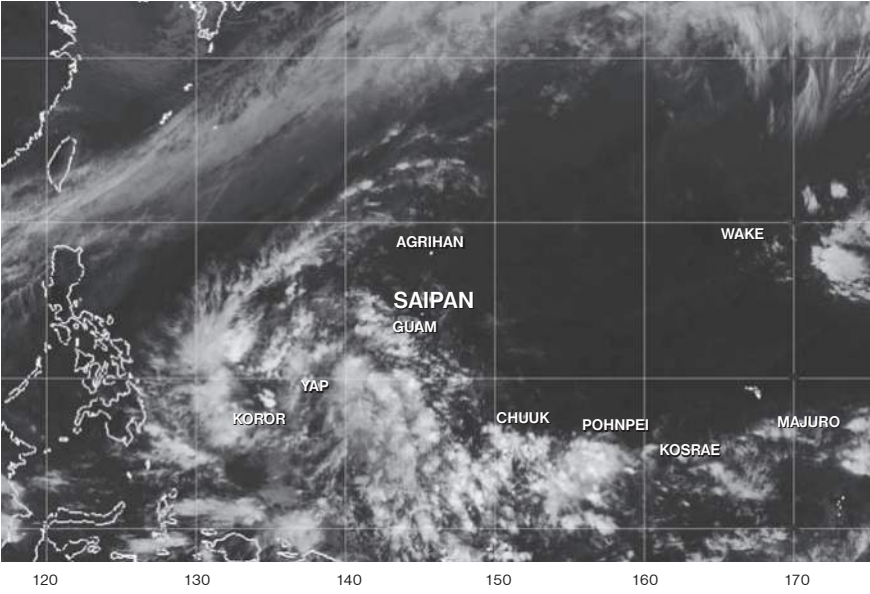
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 60
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 60
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 70
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 73
London	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 54
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 54
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 66 ▼ 54
Miami	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 74
New York	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 48
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 47
Paris	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 52
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 51
Rome	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 52
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 46
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 49
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 75 ▼ 61

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:08 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet	
8:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
3:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
10:20 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N141E to beyond 130E at 19N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and northwest of the front to beyond 25N and up to 250 miles southeast of the front. A surface trough extends northward from a weak circulation just northwest of Koror at 8N133E to 19N138E. Another trough extends southeastward from the circulation to 3N139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with these features are found southwest of a line from 14N130E to 15N141E to 10N147E to EQ148E. This area includes Yap and Palau, but is just southwest of Guam. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei and across Kosrae and Majuro within 200 miles of a line extending from 3N148E to 3N163E to 6N171E to 6N179E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Wake Island between 16N and 21N from 171E to 176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:51 PM	7:26 AM
Thursday	9:52 PM	8:24 AM
Friday	10:49 PM	9:23 AM
Saturday	11:41 PM	10:22 AM
Sunday		11:18 AM

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 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
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- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010


DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:10am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 DL288 8:00pm 12:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN CA987 6:40pm 1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL285/173 6:40am 10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT C09313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM C09313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN OZ604/715 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ716/603 12:30am 2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN DL172/286 8:05am 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C0890/9606 10:55am 8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:25am+1 6 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 4 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

FLY GUAM FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Mar. 21-27 Guam-Saipan	ETD	ETA	Turn-around Time	Flytime Hrs	Dates
Flight Sector 5K389	12:30	13:20	01:00	00:50	Mon, Thu, Sat
Saipan-Guam					
5K382	18:05	18:55	HK	00:50	Tue, Fri, Sun
Saipan-Hong Kong					
5K168	14:20	17:30	HKG	05:10	Mon, Thu, Sat
Hong Kong-Saipan					
5K169	10:00	17:05	01:00	05:05	Tue, Fri, Sun
Mar. 28- May 22 Guam-Saipan					
5K389	13:35	14:25	01:00	00:50	Mon, Thu, Sat
Saipan-Guam					
5K382	18:00	18:50	HKG	00:50	Tue, Fri, Sun
Saipan-Hong Kong					
5K168	15:25	18:35	HKG	05:10	Mon, Thu, Sat
Hong Kong-Saipan					
5K169	09:55	17:00	01:00	05:05	Tue, Fri, Sun



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Islandwide Cleanup



Northern Marianas College students pose for a group photo while participating in the Islandwide Cleanup with the Division of Environmental Quality as part the 28th Annual Environmental Awareness Month on April 15, 2011. The 13 students lead by NMC Service Learning Program coordinator Annie Santos, and NMC dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan cleaned Jeffries Beach, picking up trash and clearing debris from the site.

NMC



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager B.K. Park and Century Hotel general manager Ivan Quichocho lead the cleanup of the environs surrounding the Chamolinian Village in Garapan during last Saturday's Islandwide Cleanup.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

About 30 volunteers from Shirley's Coffee Shop and players from the Shirley's Football Club have their picture taken after participating in DEQ's Islandwide Cleanup held Saturday. The group conducted a cleanup of Sugar Dock to the Aquarius Tower Beach.

Business

BoH net earning up \$1.8M in 1Q

h Bank of Hawaii
THE BANK OF THE PACIFIC®

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Bank of Hawaii Corporation reported diluted earnings per share of \$0.88 for the first quarter of 2011, up from \$0.84 in the previous quarter. Net income for the first quarter of 2011 was \$42.4 million, up \$1.8 million or 4.4 percent compared to net income of \$40.6 million in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Deposit growth remained strong during the first quarter, increasing to \$9.9 billion at March 31, 2011. Loan balances continued to stabilize with growth in commercial loan demand partially offsetting declines in the consumer loan portfolio.

In response to market conditions and consistent with the company's ongoing capital management strategy, \$2.2 billion of investment securities held in the available for sale portfolio were reclassified to the held to maturity portfolio during the first quarter. The allowance for loan and lease losses remained unchanged at \$147.4 million and currently represents 2.77 percent of outstanding loans and leases.

"Bank of Hawaii Corporation began 2011 with solid financial performances," said Peter S. Ho, chairman, president and CEO. "Our net interest margin improved and credit costs continue to come down as the Hawaii economy maintains its recovery. Our hearts and prayers go out to the people of Japan as they recover from the disaster of March 11. The Hawaii economy will certainly be impacted somewhat in the short term although it is early to determine how protracted the effects will be."

The return on average assets for the first quarter of 2011 was 1.32 percent, up from 1.24 percent in the previous quarter. The return on average equity for the first quarter of 2011 was 16.86 percent compared to 15.08 percent for the fourth quarter of 2010. The efficiency ratio for the first quarter of 2011 was 56.04 percent, an improvement from 60.05 percent in the previous quarter. **(BoH)**

Fares are set according to booking class and distance traveled, starting at \$75 for flights up to 150 miles and rising to \$375 for flights covering between 2,001 and 2,250 miles. Itineraries can cover economy class travel of up to three months, must comprise at least three flights and need to include at least two 24 hour stops at different destinations.

Customers interested in purchasing a Micronesia Airpass should contact any Star Alliance member carrier or their travel agent. Further information can also be found on www.staralliance.com

In addition to the Micronesia Airpass, customers can travel to further destinations in and around the Pacific using either the Star Alliance Round-the-World fare, the Circle Pacific Fare, the Asia Airpass or the South Pacific Airpass. In total, Star Alliance now offers 15 different fare products world-wide. **(PR)**

Star Alliance offers island hopping across Pacific

FRANKFURT, Germany—Star Alliance has added a new service for customers to explore the islands in the Pacific.

With the Micronesia Airpass, passengers can purchase up to 10 flights on the Continental Airlines and United network across Micronesia, all in a single ticket at an attractive price.

Travel on the Micronesia Airpass can commence from any Star Alliance destination in Japan, as well as from Cairns, Guam, Hong Kong, Manila, Nadi, Palau, or Saipan and is available only in conjunction with an international Star Alliance flight into any of these destinations.

Micronesia consists of more than 2,000 islands scattered across the North Pacific and is an ideal location for many types of water sports, such as scuba diving, surfing, kayaking or fishing.

Star Alliance member carriers Continental Airlines and United

offer the most comprehensive airline network in Micronesia. In addition to Guam, customers can choose to travel to Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia; Kwajalein Atoll and Majuro in the Marshall Islands; Rota and Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands as well as Palau.

Christopher Korenke, Star Alliance commercial vice president said: "The Page 2 of 4 Micronesia Airpass again demonstrates the benefits only an airline alliance can provide. Travelers visiting Micronesia in the past had limited choice of air travel and had to purchase separate tickets on different airlines to get to this part of the world. Through the Star Alliance network, passengers can now travel on any of the member carriers serving the designated gateways and connect to the Continental Airlines and United network in Micronesia, all at excellent value for money."

S&P warning: Fix deficit or risk credit rating

WASHINGTON (AP)—A key credit agency issued an unprecedented warning to the United States government Monday, urging Washington to get a grip on its finances or risk losing the nation's sterling credit rating.

For the first time, Standard & Poor's lowered its long-term outlook for the federal government's fiscal health from "stable" to "negative," and warned of serious consequences if lawmakers fail to reach a deal to control the massive federal deficit.

An impasse could prompt the agency to strip the government of its top investment rating in the next two years, S&P said. A loss of the triple-A rating would ripple through the American economy, making loans more expensive and credit more difficult to obtain.

The downgrade was interpreted as a rebuke to President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans, admonishing

them to put politics aside and come up with a long-term financial plan as soon as possible.

"This is a warning: Don't mess around," said Robert Bixby, executive director of the Concord Coalition, a nonpartisan group that is pushing for deficit reduction.

Analysts at S&P have never before used the outlook to cast doubt on the nation's credit worthiness.

In response, stocks suffered their worst slide in a month. The Dow Jones industrial average plunged 245 points before recovering to close down 140 points for the day.

"The credit quality of U.S. debt is sacrosanct, and legislators will do everything within their power to avoid a downgrade," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank.

The government is on pace to run a record \$1.5 trillion deficit

this year, the third consecutive deficit exceeding \$1 trillion.

But so far, S&P sees little chance that the White House and Congress will agree on a deficit-reduction plan before the November 2012 elections, and the rating agency doubts that any plan would be in place until 2014 or later.

Obama and congressional Republicans are sparring over how to reduce the nation's red ink. If Congress refuses to raise the nation's debt limit this spring, and the U.S. Treasury lost authority to borrow additional money, the government would not be able to pay its bills and would default on its debt. Although it's a worst-case scenario that's highly unlikely, default by the government means anyone owning federal debt of any kind—bills, notes, bonds—could go unpaid.

Both sides have proposed cutting \$4 trillion from future deficits over the next 10 to 12 years.

Nation

FAA head: Sleeping air controllers blemish agency



An air traffic controller drinks a cup of coffee while working in a terminal radar approach control room Monday, April 18, 2011 at the Atlanta TRACON in Peachtree City, Ga. **AP**

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga. (AP)—The head of the Federal Aviation Administration said Monday that he is "infuriated" that air traffic controllers have been caught snoozing on the job, but he insisted the government will not permit its controllers to nap during rest breaks to fight fatigue.

FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt opened the first of a series of national meetings on the problem by addressing about 50 FAA employees at an air traffic control center about 30 miles southwest of Atlanta. He was joined by Paul Rinaldi, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

Since late March, the FAA has disclosed five cases of air traffic

controllers sleeping at work.

The FAA also is investigating why two air traffic controllers in Lubbock, Texas, were out of contact for an extended period.

The latest incident happened Saturday morning at a busy regional radar facility that handles high altitude traffic for Florida, parts of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean. Babbitt said sleeping worker workers have put a "real terrible blemish" on the FAA.

"None of us in this business can ... tolerate any of this," Babbitt said. "It absolutely has to stop. I was absolutely infuriated when I heard the first one or two. But as we began our review, it became even more frustrating and more dis-

pointing to me to see what has happened here."

Babbitt said at the meeting that the scandal caused by sleeping air controllers has harmed the agency's credibility. He said passengers should never have to worry about whether a flight crew is rested, a plane is properly maintained or that air traffic controllers are on the job.

"That should never be a thought for anybody getting in an airplane in this country," he said. "And it hasn't been a thought. But unfortunately, we have raised that concern."

Journalists were escorted out of the meeting before air controllers had a chance to talk during a question-and-answer session.

Arizona gov vetoes presidential 'birther' bill

PHOENIX (AP)—Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer on Monday vetoed a bill that would have required President Barack Obama and other presidential candidates to prove their U.S. citizenship before their names could appear on the state's ballot.

The bill would have made Arizona the first state to pass such a requirement. Opponents had warned the bill would give another black eye to Arizona after last year's controversy over the state's illegal immigration enforcement law.

Brewer said in her veto letter

that she was troubled that the bill empowered Arizona's secretary of state to judge the qualifications of all candidates when they file to run for office.

"I do not support designating one person as the gatekeeper to the ballot for a candidate, which could lead to arbitrary or politically motivated decisions," said Brewer, who was secretary of state until she became governor in 2009.

"In addition, I never imagined being presented with a bill that could require candidates for president of the greatest and

most powerful nation on Earth to submit their 'early baptismal circumcision certificates' among other records to the Arizona secretary of state," she said. "This is a bridge too far."

The certificates were among the documents a candidate could have submitted under the bill in place of a birth certificate.

So-called "birthers" claim there's no proof Obama was born in the United States, and he is therefore ineligible to be president. But Hawaii officials have certified Obama was born in that state.

ACROSS THE NATION

Motorcycle deaths drop, but trend is worrisome

WASHINGTON (AP)—Motorcycle deaths dropped 2 percent in the first nine months of last year, but the report by state transportation officials may signal just a blip, not a lasting improvement in safety. There were 80 fewer motorcycle deaths from January through September of 2010 than in the same time frame the previous year, said the report, scheduled for release Tuesday by the Governors Highway Safety Association. But fatalities had started to climb back up during the last three of those nine months. And that has safety advocates worried.

LA Times wins Pulitzer for exposing big salaries

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Times won a Pulitzer Prize for public service Monday

for revealing that politicians in a small, working-class California city were paying themselves exorbitant salaries. But for the first time in the Pulitzer's 95-year history, no award was given in the category of breaking news—the bread and butter of daily journalism. In a year when the big stories included the devastating earthquake in Haiti and the Gulf oil spill, the Pulitzer Board didn't like the entries in the breaking news category enough to honor any of them with the most prestigious award in journalism. The Los Angeles Times won for its series revealing that politicians in Bell, Calif., were drawing salaries well into six figures. The newspaper's reporting that officials in the struggling city of 37,000 people were raising property taxes and other fees in part to cover the huge salaries led to arrests and the ouster of some of Bell's top officials.

Asia

Authorities: No topless dancing please, we're Thai

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai authorities denounced three teenage girls Monday who danced topless on a Bangkok street during New Year's celebrations—underscoring the tension between Thailand's traditionally modest culture and the country's reputation as a sex capital.

Concern was heightened by the young age of the dancers, who were found to be 14, 15 and 16 when they turned themselves in to the police Monday afternoon.

The incident occurred Friday, on the last day of the New Year's water festival known as Songkran, not far from the world-famous Patpong Road red-light district, where live sex shows can be seen for the price of a drink and offers of sexual services to passers-by are only thinly veiled.

But that freewheeling Thailand—which is often the only one many foreigners see—is at odds with a fairly conservative culture. Thai authorities have



A Thai model and others engage in battle with water guns in an attempt to set a world record for water splashing during Thai New Year celebrations Wednesday, April 13, 2011 in Bangkok.

sought to promote that more modest vision of the country.

"Dancing topless during the Songkran celebrations is very inappropriate and unacceptable,"

Culture Minister Nipit Intarasom-but said Monday. "I assume they worked in some kind of night-clubs and got carried away by the vibe." He said he feared foreign

tourists might get the wrong idea about Thai society.

Police spokesman Maj. Gen. Prawut Thavornsiri told The Associated Press the three girls

arranged to meet them at a discreet location, paid fines of 500 baht (\$16) each for public obscenity and were released.

Songkran traditionally was a time to sprinkle water on elders respectfully in exchange for blessings. Splashing water on unsuspecting friends or passers-by eventually became a welcome relief during some of the hottest days of the year, but now the revelry often includes drunken mayhem.

Silom Road, where the incident happened, is shut to traffic during the festival, and vendors sell food and booze and play music, while young people dance in the streets and dump water on one another.

Videos of the teens show them dancing atop parked vehicles with shirts off, and then removing their bras as a rowdy crowd chants, "Take it off!"

The dance has been posted online and has been shown again and again—with naughty

bits blacked out or blurred—on local television.

"I demand that society come out and criticize them," said Nipit. Before the girls turned themselves in and paid a fine, Nipit said the dancers should carry out community service to heighten their cultural awareness, such as reading books about Songkran to children.

Chalidaporn Songsamphan, a political scientist at Bangkok's Thammasat University, said the present-day nature of the holiday was to blame.

"In the past, people celebrated the tradition with their families, neighbors or those whom they actually knew. ... Nowadays, they are celebrating with strangers," said Chalidaporn, a prominent feminist. "Since we cannot turn back the hands of time ... the Thai state should instead come up with some measures to control the crowd and limit alcohol sales during the festival," Chalidaporn said.

Taliban militant kills 2 inside Defense Ministry

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A Taliban militant opened fire inside the Afghan Defense Ministry on Monday, killing two Afghan soldiers in the latest daring attack inside a government or military installation.

The Taliban said one of their agents who was also an army officer planned the attack to coincide with a visit of the French defense minister. French officials said the minister, Gerard Longuet, was not in the ministry at the time.

Despite the Taliban claim, Afghan military officials said it was not immediately clear whether the assailant—who was wearing a vest rigged with explosives—was an enlisted soldier or an insurgent disguised in a military uniform. The vest did not explode.

The assaults over the past four days—first inside a police headquarters, then a base shared with American troops and now the heart of the Afghan military establishment—signal the start of the Taliban's spring offensive after a relative lull over the frigid Afghan winter.

Afghanistan's war usually follows an annual cycle, with fighting increasing in the spring and summer as insurgents pour

over the mountainous border from Pakistan. But the recent security breaches suggests that the Taliban are getting better at striking at the core of the Afghan security forces.

The ferocity of the Taliban's spring offensive will help determine whether the surge of more than 30,000 additional U.S. troops that President Barack Obama announced in December 2009 succeeded in arresting the insurgency.

The string of attacks since Friday shows that while the insurgents have suffered setbacks in their southern strongholds, they still have a slate of militants willing to take on deadly missions.

The assaults also demonstrate the geographical reach of the insurgency beyond the south. The most recent attacks were in Kabul and eastern Laghman province, while a deadly attack against the United Nations earlier this month happened in the previously peaceful northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

On Monday morning, a man dressed in an army uniform opened fire at the door of the Defense Ministry compound's main office building. He shot and killed one soldier at the entrance, then killed another as he

bounded toward the stairs that lead to the offices of the minister and other high-ranking officials, ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said.

Another seven soldiers—including two officers—were wounded in a shootout before the attacker was killed with a shot to the head.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said the attacker was an army officer who had been in the service for at least three years and was stationed at the Defense Ministry. He said he worked in concert with two accomplices. Azimi said there was only one attacker.

The Afghan Defense Ministry is well guarded, with at least three checkpoints stopping vehicles and people before they reach the main entrance. Soldiers are required to show identification to enter and visitors must be confirmed by the people they're meeting.

The attack came two days after an Afghan soldier working as a Taliban sleeper agent turned on his colleagues, killing five NATO service members, four Afghan soldiers and an interpreter. A day earlier, a suicide bomber dressed as a policeman blew himself up inside the

Kandahar police headquarters complex, killing the top law enforcement officer in the restive southern province.

Insurgents have long disguised themselves in the uniforms of Afghan security forces to launch attacks. But increasingly over the past year, enlisted soldiers and police have turned on their NATO and Afghan colleagues—sometimes because arguments have inflamed tensions or because of an alliance or sympathy with the Taliban.

The Afghans are ramping up recruitment of soldiers and policemen so they can take the lead in securing their nation by the end of 2014. They have added more than 70,000 police and soldiers last year in an effort to reach 305,000 troopers by the end of this year.

These recruits are supposed to be vetted by past employers or at least village elders. Even with those policies in place, there's often a dearth of information about those who enlist.

Azimi said that the military has tightened vetting of recruits and will continue to do so.

"Such incidents will make us focus more, and of course it will cause some changes to the procedures," he told The Associated Press.

seeking clemency for three Filipinos who were eventually executed for drug smuggling.

The plight of overseas workers is a sensitive issue in the Philippines, which has some 10 percent of its 94 million people toiling abroad to escape widespread poverty and unemployment at home.

Saudi king pardons Filipino sentenced to death

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government said Tuesday that it obtained a pardon from the king of Saudi Arabia sparing the life of a Filipino man who was sentenced to death for drug smuggling.

The man, an overseas worker in the conservative kingdom, was convicted in

2009 and sentenced to death by beheading after Saudi authorities seized a package that was mailed to him containing methamphetamine, said Philippine Foreign Affairs spokesman Eduardo Malaya.

The man was freed Sunday and returned to Manila late Monday. He has not been iden-

tified due to privacy concerns.

The pardoned man was the third Filipino in recent months who had been sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia and released following appeals by the government in Manila.

The Philippines, which has no death penalty, unsuccessfully appealed to China last month

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistanis flee troubled areas near Afghan border

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—When a mortar shell killed three people at his neighbor's house, Munir Khan knew it was time for him and his family to pack up and leave his village near the Afghan border. In doing so, they joined around 1 million other people still displaced as a result of fighting between Islamist militants and Pakistan's army. The displaced have become the forgotten victims of Pakistan's U.S.-backed campaign against militants, living in camps or relatives' homes scattered throughout the country. That so many have still not returned is perhaps the clearest sign of the difficulties the army is facing against deeply entrenched insurgents along the frontier.

Man stabs, wounds 6 in western China; kills self

BEIJING (AP)—State media say a man stabbed and wounded six people in China's far west before killing himself by slitting his own throat. The official Xinhua News Agency says the man in his 20s attacked six people with a knife and scissors in Kashgar in Xinjiang, an area rocked by ethnic violence in recent years. Xinhua says all six have been hospitalized. A junior high school student is in serious condition. No reason was given for Monday night's attack and it is not known if it is connected to the ethnic unrest.

Car bomb kills 1, injures 25 in southern Thailand

PATTANI, Thailand (AP)—Police say suspected Muslim insurgents have set off a car bomb that killed one soldier and wounded 25 people in restive southern Thailand. Police Col. Kritsada Kaewjandee says the improvised explosive device was planted in a car and exploded Monday morning as a pickup truck carrying paramilitary officers passed by in the city of Yala. Yala is one of the three provinces in Thailand's deep south where a Muslim insurgency has killed 4,300 people since 2004. The blast killed one soldier and wounded six officers and 19 civilians.

World

UN says Libyan regime promises Misrata access

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—The U.N. humanitarian chief said Monday that the Libyan government has promised her access to the besieged rebel city of Misrata, but with no guarantees that the assault by Moammar Gadhafi's forces would cease.

A Libyan official said the government is willing to set up "safe passage" into Misrata, the only city still partly held by rebels in Gadhafi-controlled western Libya. But at the same time, a witness in Misrata reported Monday that government forces continued to pound the city with rockets and artillery.

At least 267 people have been killed in Misrata, Libya's third-largest city, during more than seven weeks of siege, the New York-based Human Rights Watch said Monday. It said the final toll is likely higher. After inspecting impact sites and talking to witnesses, the group accused Libyan forces of launching indiscriminate rocket and mortar attacks on residential neighborhoods.

Rebels and civilians evacuated from Misrata by boat as part of an international rescue mission were taken off on gunneys or in wheelchairs Monday. One had a severely damaged leg with braces and bandages and some women carried babies. One of the rebels carried fragments of rockets as he disembarked in the rebels' de facto capital Benghazi late Monday.

"I brought this to show people what's going on there (in Misrata). Somebody has to do something about it," said the rebel, 38-year-old Ali Milad, who wore a long dirty robe and carried his belongings in a single bag.

The rebels have controlled much of eastern Libya, including the second-largest Libyan city of Benghazi, since early on in the uprising against Gadhafi that began in mid-February. Gadhafi loyalists have crushed other rebellions in western Libya, but have not been able to take back control of Misrata through many weeks of attacks.

The Libyan government has denied firing heavy weapons, including rockets and tank shells, at the city.

"If there is killing of civilians, we are saying that the rebels are the ones killing civilians," government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim said Monday. He said the rebels have received weapons by sea from the Gulf state of Qatar and alleged European governments have also started arming the Misrata fighters, but did not elaborate or provide evidence.

The Libyan government has turned down repeated requests by foreign journalists based in the capital of Tripoli to go to Misrata. Journalists in Tripoli



Libyan rebel fighters are seen through the opposition flag flying on their pickup truck, on the outskirts of Ajdabiya, Libya Monday, April 18, 2011. AP

are not allowed to tour western Libya independently, without government minders.

Valerie Amos, the U.N. humanitarian chief, said she

demanding in a meeting with Libyan officials in Tripoli on Sunday that the U.N. be permitted to visit Misrata and other towns to assess the hu-

manitarian needs there.

"I have been given those assurances," she said Monday, speaking in Benghazi.

However, she added that she

received "no guarantees with respect to my call for an overall cessation of hostilities, to enable people to move, to enable us to deliver supplies."

Syrian activists begin sit-in for Assad ouster

BEIRUT (AP)—More than 5,000 anti-government protesters in Syria took over the main square of the country's third-largest city Monday, vowing to occupy the site until President Bashar Assad is ousted and defying authorities who warn they will not be forced into reforms.

The government, however, blamed the weeks of anti-government unrest in the country on ultraconservative Muslims seeking to establish a fundamentalist state and terrorize the people, in the latest official effort to portray the reform movement as populated by extremists.

The Egypt-style standoff in the central city of Homs followed funeral processions by more than 10,000 mourners for some of those killed in clashes Sunday that a rights group said left at least 12 people dead. It also brought a high-stakes challenge to security forces over whether to risk more bloodshed—and international backlash—by trying to clear the square.

In the past month, Syrian security forces in uniforms and plainclothes have launched a deadly crackdown on demonstrations, killing at least 200 people, according to human rights

groups. Many Syrians also say pro-government thugs—known as Shabiha—have terrorized neighborhoods with tactics such as opening fire into the air.

The government has in the past blamed "armed gangs" seeking to stir up unrest for many of the killings, such as the ones who fatally shot seven people, including three army officers, on Sunday in Homs.

On Monday, the Interior Ministry identified the gangs as "armed Salafi groups," referring to an ultraconservative form of Islam that has its roots in Saudi Arabia and can be found all

over the region.

The statement carried by the state news agency said they were seeking to establish "emirates" and were "abusing the freedoms and reforms launched in the comprehensive program with a timetable by President Bashar Assad."

Assad has been playing on fears of sectarian warfare as he works to quell any popular support for the uprising and has blamed the unrest on a foreign plot to sow sectarian strife—echoing pronouncements from almost every other besieged leader in the region.

Egypt Islamists defiant over Christian governor

CAIRO (AP)—Protesters led by hardline Islamists in southern Egypt held their ground Monday, saying they won't end their campaign of civil disobedience until the government removes a newly appointed Coptic Christian governor.

The protesters, many from the ultraconservative Salafi trend of Islam, have been sitting on train tracks, taken over government buildings and blocked main roads in the southern city of Qena, insisting the new governor won't properly implement Islamic law.

Attempts by the newly appointed interior minister, who hails from the same area, to defuse the crisis were rebuffed and protesters insisted their

sit-in, which began Friday, would continue.

Since the Feb. 11 ousting of President Hosni Mubarak in popular protests, Islamist groups have been flexing their muscles and are vowing to take a more active political role as Egypt is still drawing its transition to democracy.

The prominent role of these ultraconservative Islamic movements, which were once politically quiescent, has worried many, including the secular activists and youth groups that were the driving force behind the uprising.

Egypt's Coptic minority, which makes up about 10 percent of the country's 82 million population and have long complained of dis-

crimination in the country, have also been deeply unsettled by the development.

The new governor's predecessor was actually a Christian and a former police general as well, but he was appointed by Mubarak and was much reviled for his incompetence, security background, and close ties to the regime, enabling the Salafis to draw on local dissatisfaction in their current campaign.

"They started out by camping at the local government's office. Then they set up a tent on the railroad tracks," said local resident Wafy Nasr. "They also tried to block the road and stopped buses to separate men and women passengers."

He said tensions were so high that the local Christian residents had to stay inside and couldn't go to church to celebrate Palm Sunday.

A video posted on the YouTube website showed a speaker telling a crowd at the government office: "This won't work. A Copt won't implement Islamic law." According to the constitution, Islamic law is supposed to be the primary source of legislation in the country.

The civil disobedience campaign prompted Egypt's top security official, Interior Minister Mansour el-Eissawi, to visit Qena to try to defuse the situation, but he wasn't able to sway the protesters.

WORLD BRIEFS

Nigerian leader wins presidential poll amid riots

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan won the oil-rich country's election Monday as riots swept across the Muslim north and left buildings ablaze and people hiding in their homes, highlighting the religious and ethnic tensions still dividing Africa's most populous nation. The violence cut across 13 states, hundreds wounded. Heavy gunfire echoed through cities, as shouting crowds burned tires and threw stones at security forces. Many were feared dead, though federal officials declined to offer any figures for fear of further stoking tensions. In a televised address to the nation late Monday, Jonathan called on Nigerians to "quickly move away from partisan battlegrounds and find a national common ground."

Cuba's Communist Party approves sweeping changes

HAVANA (AP)—Communist Party delegates gave their blessing to a sweeping slate of economic changes designed to breathe life and a bit of free-market spirit into Cuba's moribund economy, and also voted in a new party leadership at a historic summit Monday. State television announced the unanimous approval of about 300 economic proposals in a full session of the Party Congress, but it did not give details. News-cast presenters said the party's new leadership has also been decided, without naming names. President Raul Castro is widely believed to be in line to take over as the party's first secretary from his brother Fidel, but all eyes are on the selection of the No. 2 position, which could signal the Castros' choice of an eventual successor.

CEO of sweets-maker Ferrero dies in SAfrica

ROME (AP)—Pietro Ferrero, the CEO of the Ferrero Group holding company that produces Nutella, Tic Tac mints and other confections and a scion of one of Italy's richest families died on Monday after falling from a bicycle while on a business trip in South Africa. He was 47. Pietro Ferrero was also chairman of Ferrero S.p.A. the Italian branch of the family-run company and the heart of the candy and sweets maker empire. The company's press office at headquarters in Alba, northwestern Italy, said Ferrero, a cycling enthusiast, was riding a bike on his usual training run on a road in Cape Town when he fell off. It said it wasn't clear what prompted the fall.

Focus

TOKYO—Before the devastation of earthquake, tsunami and nuclear fire, Japan's Parliament was nearing a breakdown over attempts to increase taxes and cut spending for senior pensions and health care.

Politicians have now united to confront a natural disaster. Regaining control of the budget, however, will be much harder as reconstruction piles on more debt in a country already straining under the costs of an aging population.

Japan's social security budget woes are worse than those facing the United States, even though the Japanese government has faced up to them more often than the U.S. government.

Those confrontations with the cost of an aging society have had political consequences, however. A backlash among the elderly, who are ill-prepared for retirement, has created a powerful senior voting bloc that's defeating incumbent governments. Japan has gone through five prime ministers since 2006.

While poverty among the elderly is no worse than it is in the United States, recent surveys show hardly any Japanese know how much money they will have to live on in retirement. Fewer than one in five has a plan on how to spend it.

Analysts say this lack of readiness has political costs. Seniors are a powerful and growing voting bloc in Japan, and they have come to rely on the government to provide adequate pensions and health care. They don't like it when Japanese politicians try to reduce massive levels of government borrowing by cutting benefits.

"Especially among older Japanese voters, they are dissatisfied with their treatment, and they vote against the incumbent party," said Hiroki Takeuchi, who teaches Japanese politics at Southern Methodist University.

Robert Clark, a management professor at North Carolina State University who's studied the Japanese approach, said the Japanese have at least tried to get a grip on the budget problems of an aging society.

"What we ought to learn (from Japan) is, it's useful to take your projections seriously and make modifications to retirement costs in a timely manner," Clark said. "If we'd done that 10 years or 15 years ago, we wouldn't be facing some of the problems we're facing now."

The average Japanese person is 44.8 years old, the oldest average for any nation in the world, according to the CIA World Factbook's 2011 estimate. (The average American is 36.9.) Retired Japanese outnumber the nation's children. The Japanese government has had to borrow heavily to keep up with social security spending. Government debt now exceeds \$12.1 trillion, or more than twice the economy's annual output.

"This earthquake will delay the debate on dealing with this problem," Takeuchi said. "It will make the problem even worse, when the problem is already very bad."

By 2025, the Ministry of Labor, Health and Welfare projects that health care spending will rise 70 percent, nursing home care by 160 percent and pensions by 40 percent.

These spending hikes are not the result of inflation. Japan has been experiencing bouts of deflation, or fall-



Chiya Yamane, 84, recounts March 19, 2011, the afternoon the tsunami warning sounded in her Miyako neighborhood in Japan. She headed out of her house toward higher ground, but got tired. A fireman carried her to safety on his back.

JAPAN

An aging society not prepared for retirement

By JIM LANDERS
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

ing prices, for much of the last two decades. What drives the budget is an aging society.

Japan's population has peaked at 128 million. Nearly one in five Japanese is over the age of 65. By 2030, as the population declines, the portion of seniors is expected rise to more than one in four.

Since 1985, Japanese governments

from 60 to 65. Since 2004, benefits are indexed according to demographics—the fewer workers there are to support a growing number of retirees, the lower the benefits.

As in the U.S. Social Security system, current workers are taxed to pay for those already retired—a method known as pay-as-you-go.

Retirement taxes are 16 percent of

When Hakuta retires this summer, he'll get a lump sum of about \$30,500 for working 16 years as a chauffeur. Part of that will go toward retiring the balance on \$24,000 in medical debt that mushroomed in the hands of a high-interest lender. He and his wife will then have to live on pension income of \$2,800 a month.

"When I came to Tokyo after grad-

The average Japanese person is 44.8 years old, the oldest average for any nation in the world ... The average American is 36.9. Retired Japanese outnumber the nation's children.

have fought four bruising parliamentary fights to lower retirement benefits, raise taxes and raise the retirement age. Even with the changes, half of pension funding comes from general government revenues.

The current maximum government pension (equivalent to Social Security) for a Japanese worker who retires after 40 years in the system is a little less than \$10,000 a year.

The retirement age in Japan has risen

an employee's salary, split equally between workers and employers. They'll increase to 18.3 percent by 2017.

Voters like Keiichiro Hakuta aren't keen on government budget cuts to deal with these developments.

Born in 1947, Hakuta was a Tokyo securities dealer who went broke when Japan's bubble economy burst in the early 1990s. The bust left him more than \$300,000 in debt, which he said he has slowly paid off.

uating, I only saw a couple of years ahead and not more," he said. "Now I don't have those big dreams. If I have a home and I'm happy, it's OK. But I'm unsure of the future."

He hopes to find a friend who will let him live rent-free in a house far from Tokyo but has no prospects yet.

Hakuta's lack of preparedness may be extreme, but not being ready for retirement is typical of Japanese seniors.

Like many Americans, the Japanese

have three economic pillars for retirement: a government pension, an employer's pension (often started with a lump-sum payment) and personal savings.

Akira Suzuki was compelled to retire seven years ago when he reached his 60th birthday. He wasn't ready to stop working and found a job as a contract employee with a government agency.

The job and his pensions gave Suzuki and his wife an income of \$58,000 a year, but now he's had to leave his contract job, cutting his income in half. He's not sure if that will be enough. He and his wife are exploring whether to retire in a lower-cost country like the Philippines.

"In a way, I regret I didn't save more," Suzuki said. "I am strongly advising my daughter and her husband all the time to save more, but of course they don't listen to me."

Suzuki expects the government will soon have to raise the national sales tax from 5 percent to 10 percent. "Our political leaders cannot catch up with this changing political situation," he said. "I don't know whether they can carry out the necessary reforms or not."

Recent surveys by Nomura Research Institute and HSBC Insurance show that, among developed nations, the Japanese are among the least prepared for retirement.

HSBC has polled adults in 15 nations for the last five years about retirement. The survey of 1,000 Japanese in May 2009 found that 97 percent did not know how much retirement income they would have. (The same survey done in the United States found 86 percent did not know what their retirement income would look like.)

A Nomura poll in July of 1,000 Japanese born between 1947 and 1949 found only 20 percent had put together a retirement plan. Two-thirds didn't know how much they'd have to live on in retirement until, at best, a few months before they quit working.

Without a plan or investment strategy, most retirees keep their savings in ordinary savings accounts that earn very little interest, said Nomura wealth planning specialist Yuichi Hagino.

Meanwhile, consumers are relying even more on the government for security in retirement.

Personal savings, a strength of the Japanese economy for decades and a pillar of retirement income, have fallen sharply in the last decade. Households saved an average of 10 percent of their income in 1990. Savings fell to 1.7 percent of income in 2007. Last year, the rate rebounded to 4.7 percent. (U.S. household savings last year were about 5.8 percent.)

Hagino, the wealth management specialist with Nomura Research, said Japanese retirees could earn more in retirement but would rather keep their savings in banks than invest them.

"Our financial institutions need to work harder to help people plan for retirement," he said.

Hakuta blamed some of the consumer conservatism on the bust that brought down his firm. The Japanese stock market is still valued at only a third of the level it achieved in 1990.

"When the Nikkei index went to 20,000 from 33,000, I asked my customers to cash out," he said. "They refused, and then it went to 7,000."

Campus Life

SAEF School, Kids Cove students shine at PGFC

Students of the Saipan American Education Foundation School and Kids Cove Learning Center participated in the Primary Grade Forensic Competition Regionals held at the Kagman Elementary School on April 9, 2011. Several private and public school students who got at least one ribbon in the previous meets were qualified to join.

SAEF students Kassandra Myka Villegas, Mark Anthony Dilay, Dondi Ferrer, Maverick Irang, and Natalie Hirshbien got gold medals for choral speaking. Dierdre Rosete received a silver medal

for her Dramatic Interpretation of *Rich Man, Poor Man*. Other awards and ribbons are as follows:

REGIONALS 3-5 Division

- 1st place, Reader's Forum: Deirdre Rosete
- 1st place, Dramatic Interpretation: Deirdre Rosete
- 1st place, Humorous Interpretation: Stephen Seth Alonzo
- 4th place, Reader's Forum: Myka Villegas
- 4th place, Duo Interpretation: Mark Anthony Dilay and Dondi Ferrer

K-2 Division

- 3rd place, Choral Speaking: Kaiyu Nishimura, Tommy Jin, Jisha Pamfilo, Bradley Ordon
- 4th place, Choral Speaking: Radge Palma, Dishun Tudela, Amy Rayn Soliman

SEMI-FINALS 3-5 Division

- 1st place, Duo Interpretation: Avelyn Alvarez and Kristine Kate Fajardo
- 2nd place, Reader's Forum: Deirdre Rosete
- 4th place, Reader's Forum: Maverick Irang

K-2 Division

- 2nd place, Duo Interpretation: Alleena Indalecio & Amy Rayn Soliman

FINALS 3-5 Division

- 4th place, Choral Speaking: Stephen Seth Alonzo, Kristine Kate Fajardo, Caleb Rocher-Light, Avelyn Alvarez, Keziah Gonzales
- 4th place, Duo Interpretation: Mark Anthony Dilay and Dondi Ferrer
- 4th place, Humorous Interpretation, Stephen Seth Alonzo



Kids Cove Learning Center students show off their PGFC medals with their teachers/coaches.



▲ Saipan American Education Foundation School students proudly pose with their teachers/coaches.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

► Saipan American Education Foundation School students, from left, Sean Benedict Palma (8th grade), Kyle Keisha Villegas, and J.D. Faye Pascua (6th grade). The three joined the NJFL Regionals held April 1 and 2. Villegas and Pascua, both 6th grade students, competed in Duo Interpretation. Their duet piece was titled *Dear Santa* by Laurie Allen. They made it until the semis. Villegas almost qualified in the semis for the Poetry category. She made it until the 6th round. Her piece was *The Spilled Blood*. Pascua competed in Poetry until the 5th round. Palma, an 8th grader, also made it through the semis. He joined the Original Oratory category. He wrote his own piece.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CAREER DAY

◀ Architect Chris Fryling, rear left, poses with 8th grade students of Hopwood Junior High after his presentation about this career during Hopwood Junior High School's Career Day held on April 14, 2011

▼ Fryling with future CNMI architects Elijah Elias and Leitina Norita.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Life & Style

Jennifer Egan wins fiction Pulitzer Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Egan's inventive novel about the passage of time, "A Visit from the Goon Squad," won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction Monday, honored for its "big-hearted curiosity about cultural change at warp speed."

Egan, 48, has been highly praised for her searching and unconventional narratives about modern angst and identity. Her other novels include "The Invisible Circus," "Look at Me" and "The Keep."

Critics were especially taken with "A Visit From the Goon Squad," set in the digital upending of the music industry. Earlier this year, she won the National Book Critics Circle prize for the book, which experiments with format, notably a long section structured like a PowerPoint presentation.

"The book is so much about how change is unexpected and always kind of shocking," she said by phone. Egan said she was inspired by Marcel Proust's sprawling novel "Remembrance of Things Past," which explored the passage of time.

"His book of time is all about how the work of time is unpredictable and in some sense unfathomable," she said. "So

Foner said in a telephone interview from London, where he is teaching this semester.

He said it can be intimidating approaching a book on Lincoln, who has been written about so much before. But he said many Lincoln books either try to put the Civil War president on a pedestal or tear him down, and he was trying to get a balanced view on a specific topic seen through the lens of that period in history.

Ron Chernow, a New York-based historian who has written about Alexander Hamilton and John D. Rockefeller in the past, won the Pulitzer for biography for "Washington: A Life," about the nation's first president. It's his first Pulitzer Prize.

"I am really quite flabbergasted and quite thrilled," Chernow said. The historian worked for six years on the project, reading some 35,000 to 40,000 pages of material on Washington and 125 books about people and events from Washington's time. Contest judges called it "a sweeping, authoritative portrait of an iconic leader."

Kay Ryan's "The Best of It: New and Selected Poems" won the poetry prize, a book called by the Pulitzer board "a treasure

trove of an iconoclastic and joyful mind." Ryan was U.S. Poet Laureate from 2008-2010.

"It comes with a really big car, doesn't it? Don't you get a Humvee? The poet's car," she joked by phone while pacing in her kitchen in San Francisco. The book spans 45 years of her compressed, witty, often humorous poetry.

"Since my nature was not very compatible with the tastes of my time, I had to find ways to express what must be expressed in poetry, which is the activity of the mind and the heart," she said. "I suppose it sounds like a

cliche, but poetry came and got me. I came to it very reluctantly, but it insisted."

The general nonfiction prize was given to "The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer" by Siddhartha Mukherjee, an oncologist and assistant professor of medicine at Columbia. It is his first book and he found out he'd won the Pulitzer while sitting alone in a bookstore in New York.

"It's the most incredible experience of my lifetime," he said. "One of the reasons I wrote the book was to demystify cancer. One of the things that patients often feel is that the mystery itself becomes a kind of stigma. And I tried to get away from that without simplifying it."

The music prize went to Zhou Long for "Madame White Snake," which was hailed as "a deeply expressive opera that draws on a Chinese folk tale to blend the musical traditions of the East and the West." It made its debut in February 2010 in a performance by the Boston Opera. Zhou was chosen to write the music by Cerise Lim Jacobs, who wrote the opera's libretto.

The Pulitzers in journalism, letters, drama and music are given out annually by Co-

Bruce Norris wins the Pulitzer Prize for drama

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruce Norris' play "Clybourne Park," which examines race relations and the effects of modern gentrification, won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for drama on Monday.

The play was cited by the Columbia University's prize board as "a powerful work whose memorable characters speak in witty and perceptive ways to America's sometimes toxic struggle with race and class consciousness."

"Clybourne Park" is a remarkably perceptive, often hilarious and surprisingly poignant look at changing—and not-so-changing—views on both subjects in one Chicago neighborhood.

The work imagines what might have happened to the family that moved out of the house in the fictitious Chicago neighborhood of Clybourne Park, which is where Lorraine Hansberry's Younger clan is headed by the end of her 1959 play "A Raisin in the Sun."

Norris' other plays include "The Infidel" (2000), "Purple Heart" (2002), "We All Went Down to Amsterdam" (2003),



This undated photo provided by the Pulitzer Prize Board shows Bruce Norris, who won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play "Clybourne Park," announced Monday, April 18, 2011, in New York.

"The Pain and the Itch" (2004), "The Unmentionables" (2006) and "A Parallelogram" (2010). He is a longtime collaborator with the Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago. "Clybourne Park" premiered at New York's Playwrights Horizons last year.

"I'm deeply honored and totally flabbergasted to receive this recognition," said Norris, who

was staying on an island off the coast of Maine when he learned of the win. "I want to thank both Playwrights Horizons and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in Washington, D.C., for simultaneously taking a chance on this play, and to thank Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago for their 10 years of support."

The drama award, which includes a \$10,000 prize, is "for a distinguished play by an American author, preferably original in its source and dealing with American life," according to the official guidelines. The production also must have opened during 2010 to be eligible for this year's award.

Last year's winner was the musical "Next to Normal" by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey. Previous playwrights honored include August Wilson, Edward Albee, Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams.

Finalists for the drama prize this year were the Broadway-bound "Detroit" by Lisa D'Amour and "A Free Man of Color" by John Guare, which was produced at Lincoln Center.



Author Jennifer Egan is shown at her home in the Brooklyn borough of New York on Monday, April 18, 2011.

there's no question that winning a prize like this feel unpredictable and unfathomable."

The Pulitzer for history was awarded to "The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery" by Eric Foner, a Columbia University professor who has won multiple honors for a career focused on the Lincoln era and Reconstruction. Foner, 68, called the latest prize a capstone for his career.

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In Humble Gratitude

MANUEL SANTOS SABLAN

We, the family of the late Manuel Santos Sablan, wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for your words of kindness during our most painful time of sorrow. Your prayers, thoughtfulness and gentle embrace have brought us great comfort.

Your presence and prayers at the daily masses and most especially at the Mass of Christian Burial were very comforting.

Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Maria Basa Sablan, Children and Families

North Korea stages biggest magic show ever

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Amid a burst of fireworks and a haze of smoke, a burly showman in a white sequined suit and gold lame cape appears with a flourish. Over the next 45 minutes, he appears to make a Pyongyang bus levitate and wriggles free from a box sent crashing to the stage through a ring of fire.

This is magic North Korean-style performed in a show touted as the country's biggest ever and mounted in a city where good, old-fashioned illusion, a dancing bear and a dose of slapstick comedy can still command the biggest crowds of the year.

The country's love for magic is a legacy of the circus traditions they inherited decades ago, during an era of Soviet influence.

North Korean founder Kim Il Sung ordered the creation of the Pyongyang Circus in 1952 in the middle of the Korean War. The tradition of highly technical stagecraft—including the Arirang mass games, where 100,000 performers move in sync in a feat that has come to embody North Korean discipline and regimentation—still dazzles in a country where high-tech entertainment is scarce.

"They love magic shows, together with the circus," said Tony Namkung, a scholar who often serves as a liaison between North Korea and the U.S. and other governments. "Like so many other things, it harkens back to a pre-electronic past when things were much simpler."

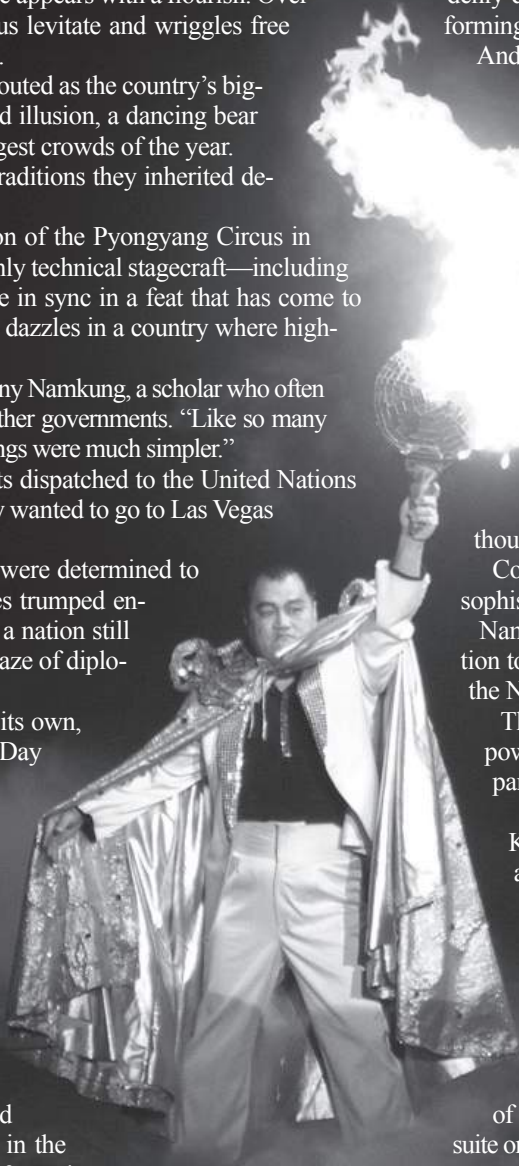
In fact, North Koreans so love magic that two diplomats dispatched to the United Nations had a special request in 1995 of their American hosts: They wanted to go to Las Vegas to see David Copperfield.

Wowed by the world-famous illusionist, the diplomats were determined to bring Copperfield to Pyongyang. But politics and finances trumped entertainment, and plans to bring the American magician to a nation still technically at war with the United States vanished in the haze of diplomatic tensions.

Undeterred, North Korea has kept putting on shows of its own, and it unveiled a massive one Monday at the capital's May Day Stadium. It was designed by Kim Chol, dubbed the "David Copperfield of North Korea," and will include seven performances in all.

The show stars Ri Thai Gum, a beefy showman with the extravagant flair—and physique—of a pro wrestler and the skills of Houdini. He whips off his white suit with silver-sequined lapels to reveal a tank top and then straps on a gold-appliqued cummerbund onto his hefty waist.

The event was a highlight in a week of festivities surrounding Kim Il Sung's April 15 birthday. Many of the women turned out in festive traditional Korean dresses reserved for special occasions, sparkles sprinkled into their hair and wearing fur-lined vests to keep warm in the spring chill. Outside, pink and yellow lights illuminated a fountain as music played to crowds enjoying an evening out.



An advertisement boasts that the show features "aircraft and a large bus appearing and then suddenly disappearing, elephants and other heavy animals appearing mysteriously, a motorcyclist performing fantastic skills, magicians floating in the air as if in a gravity-free space."

And it does, adding in a healthy dose of slapstick comedy.

The tricks are simple crowd pleasers: A Pyongyang city bus filled with waving passengers appears to levitate and then disappear; an acrobat seems to float through a magical sky-scape of clouds.

There's the classic magician's assistant dressed in traditional Korean dress who gets into a box and reappears halfway across the stadium.

In another trick, a man goes into a box but after a wave of the Korean Houdini's hand, out comes a girl in a short, spangly miniskirt with a prancing baby bear on a leash bowing hello to the audience.

The highlight involves a helicopter and a ring of fire that aim to have the clapping audience, mostly Koreans and a smattering of tourists and foreign dancers and musicians visiting the city for an arts festival, on edge.

"I thought it was great. The quality of the tricks that they pulled off was really high," said Chris Andrews, a tourist from Sydney, Australia. "That bear trick I thought was one of the coolest things I've ever seen."

Current leader Kim Jong Il is said to have inherited his father's love of the circus and is thought to be the one to push to bring Copperfield to North Korea.

Copperfield's stage manager once called North Korea's staging technology "among the most sophisticated in the world," according to Namkung.

Namkung, who took the North Korean diplomats to Vegas and later brought a Copperfield delegation to Pyongyang to discuss a visit, recalled that the time was ripe to bring a big American star to the North Korean capital.

The U.S. and North Korea had just signed an agreement for Pyongyang to freeze its nuclear power plants and to replace them with light water reactors less prone to weapons proliferation as part of a plan to normalize relations between the longtime enemies.

There were high hopes that Copperfield's show—to be broadcast live on state TV in North Korea—could pave the way for a new era in relations between the bitter wartime foes. And in a symbolic show of support for reunification, Copperfield agreed to travel through the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas and perform for the South Koreans as well.

"This was right after the 'agreed framework' signing at a time when it looked as if the two nations would go down an entirely new path, and the atmosphere in Pyongyang was giddy," said Namkung, who also serves as a consultant to The Associated Press.

Copperfield himself was game, promising to make the city's iconic Juche Tower disappear, just as he did the Great Wall of China and the Statue of Liberty.

So seriously did the North Koreans take Copperfield's visit that they staged a private viewing of the circus for his production team's visit to Pyongyang and promised to give the illusionist a vast suite once used by former President Jimmy Carter on his visit in 1994, Namkung recalled.

But the State Department thought it was too early to back the venture, and the plan eventually foundered over how to finance the trip.

North Korean magician Ri Thai Gum arrives on stage at the start of his performance at the Pyongyang, North Korea Monday, April 18, 2011.

AP

Prosecutors say Jackson's doctor changed his story

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The doctor charged in the death of Michael Jackson tried to change his story about his actions involving the pop star, telling his own experts in the upcoming trial a different story than he told police, prosecutors said Monday.

Deputy District Attorneys David Walgren and Deborah Brazil filed a motion asking a judge to bar new claims made by defendant Dr. Conrad Murray.

They said he apparently made the new assertions in conversation with two doctors who will testify on his behalf in the case.

The accounts were revealed in letters from the experts, Dr. Paul White, an anesthesiologist, and Dr. Joseph Haraszti, a psychiatrist and hospital director.

Prosecutors believe Murray spoke to the experts after a preliminary hearing in January that focused on his statements to police after Jackson's death in June 2009.

The motion quoted Murray as telling the experts he left Jackson's bedroom to make a phone call, even though he initially said he left Jackson to go to the bathroom.

Experts also said Murray claimed to have experience using propofol—the powerful anesthetic that killed Jackson—as a sedative, even though Murray didn't make such a claim in police interviews.

The motion also says Murray claims for the first time that Jackson took

propofol in fruit juice while the doctor wasn't looking. The prosecutors said that was speculation.

J. Michael Flanagan, an attorney for Murray, said his client did not really change his story but instead explained some facts to Dr. White.

Murray had forgotten some details when he spoke to police, Flanagan explained, adding his client had decided to make some phone calls after going to the bathroom.

In addition, the time sequence of events was slightly different when Murray thought about it later, Flanagan said.

Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter. A coroner found that Jackson died of an overdose of propofol and other sedatives.

Prosecutors called the new statements about Murray's actions "a backdoor attempt to introduce the defendant's new, self-serving statements without being subject to cross-examination."

"Such information conflicts with what the defendant told the police in his prior interviews," the motion states.

The only way the statements would be admissible, prosecutors said, is if Murray testifies in his own defense and is subject to cross-examination. They said the reports from both doctors contain numerous examples of new statements in conflict with Murray's previous accounts.

A hearing on motions is scheduled for Thursday. Jury selection resumes on May 4.

AP Interview: Treacy among royal wedding designers

LONDON (AP)—France has the beret, while America has the humble baseball cap.

But Britain's love of hats is in a different stratosphere. Bowlers, baker boys, top hats, boaters, deerstalkers and countless ladies creations have been worn by royals and commoners alike through the centuries—a beloved tradition that will be in full force at Prince William and Kate Middleton's April 29 wedding.

Bookmakers are already betting on the color of Queen Elizabeth II's hat—odds are on yellow—and the designer making the princess-to-be's honeymoon headpiece. The salmon-colored tricorn hat that Princess Diana wore as she left for her honeymoon in 1981 spawned hundreds of copies.

"When people think of hats, they think of her majesty the queen," designer Philip Treacy, who is making some hats for royal wedding guests, told The Associated Press on Monday. "They're exciting hats to make, because hats and royal weddings are both about magic, happiness and a sense of celebration."

Theories abound on why Britain became a country of mad hatters—an expression referring to the Alice in Wonderland character whose loopy persona was based on the many milliners who suffered neurological damage as they inhaled the mercury used to cure pelts.

Britain's lousy weather might have contributed to the national obsession, but experts say it's the royal family that has kept it alive.

"Hats have long denoted status," says Oriole Cullen, curator of a Victoria & Albert Museum 2009 hat exhibit

that has since gone to Australia and heads to New York in September. "Up until the 1950s, a woman wasn't even considered properly dressed unless she was wearing a hat and gloves."

The rebellious yet liberating swinging '60s spawned a variety of hair styles that—along with the cramped confines of the modern automobile—prompted a steady decline in global hat sales, Cullen says. Many milliners also blame John F. Kennedy—one of the first U.S. presidents not to don a hat—for hastening the demise.

In Britain, however, the tradition has stayed strong.

Royals have long been painted



In this Friday, April 18, 2011 file photo, a race goer arrives wearing a doughnut hat, at Aintree Ladies Day at the Grand National horse race meeting at Aintree racecourse in Liverpool, England.

or photographed wearing hats—the Queen Mum had a special fondness for flouncy feathered creations, whereas her daughter has generally worn the same blocked style. Prime ministers and lawmakers, too, have worn top hats and tails at Oxford or Cambridge.

Britain is also home to the Henley Regatta, Royal Ascot and the Lords—posh rowing, horse racing and cricket events patronized by royalty where hats are de rigueur.

And then there are weddings and funerals.

Although the dress for William and Kate's wedding is not strictly formal—invitations allow men to wear suits—there will be a sea of ladies in hats among the 1,900 people invited to Westminster Abbey, much like the 1981 wedding of Prince Charles and Diana in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Designers say some women began placing their hat orders when the couple announced their engagement in November. Some have advised clients to be original, focus on their outfits, forget about the price and don't outdo the bride or royals.

Some creations by designers like Treacy, who made two hats for the Duchess of Cornwall when she married Prince Charles in 2005 and several other creations worn by Sex & the City star Sarah Jessica Parker, can cost more than 600 pounds (\$1,000).

Treacy has been commissioned to do several of the hats for royal wedding guests but is tightlipped about his clients, who include the likes of Lady Gaga and Grace Jones.

Vandals damage divisive photo at French exhibit

PARIS (AP)—Police questioned witnesses on Monday in their search for a man who took a hammer to a controversial photograph of a crucifix bathed in urine at an art exhibition in an Avignon museum.

The modern art museum, the Collection Lambert, in southern France, said an assailant destroyed the photograph by American artist Andres Serrano, "Immersion (Piss Christ)" on Sunday and apparently accidentally damaged another of the artist's works while struggling with a guard.

It was not immediately clear whether the assailant was part of a demonstration a day earlier by a right-wing group denouncing the 1987 photograph as blasphemous and demanding its removal from the exhibition, entitled "I Believe in Miracles."

According to police, citing witnesses, two people tried to enter the museum late Sunday morning carrying a can of paint spray and a chisel in their jackets. The guard removed the objects—just as a third person took a hammer to "Immersion."

The attacker struggled with a guard, but helped by an accomplice, managed to escape, police said. In the struggle, he apparently damaged another work, "The Church (Sister Jeanne-Myriam)," which shows a nun praying.



In this Sunday April 17, 2011 photo provided by the museum: "The Church (Sœur Jeanne-Myriam)", a 1990 picture by American artist Andres Serrano is shown damaged as part of the Collection Lambert in a museum in Avignon, Southern France, Sunday April 17, 2011.

The police officials asked not to be identified by name because they weren't authorized to discuss the investigation publicly.

The museum's doors were shut Monday for its weekly closing. However, it said it will reopen Tuesday with the destroyed works on display so that the public can view the damage. The museum closed early Saturday because of a protest of the protest.

Serrano made the controversial work by placing a crucifix

in urine and blood, and it has drawn criticism in the past from some Christian groups.

Young far-right Christian activists from the General Alliance Against Racism and for the Respect of the French and Christian Identity is taking the

Collection Lambert to court Wednesday to try to have the crucifix photograph removed from the exhibit. The group denounced the photograph on its Web site, saying it "insults and injures Christians at the heart of their faith."

Elton John returning to Las Vegas for 3-year run

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Elton John is returning to the Las Vegas Strip for a three-year run at Caesars Palace.

The five-time Grammy winner announced Monday he'll return with his "Million Dollar Piano" show to The Colosseum at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas starting in September.

Tickets for the first 16 shows

go on sale April 25.

John completed his first run at Caesars Palace in April 2009. "The Red Piano" was originally slated to run for three years, but was extended to a five-year run because of audience demand.

John was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999.

So long, Peter Parker, red-and-blue Spidey suit

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A new look and a new suit are in store for Ultimate Spider-Man, but the fate of Peter Parker—the awkward teenager who catches thieves like flies—is still a mystery.

Marvel Comics said Monday that Parker is taking off the Spidey costume for good as part of its "Death of Spider-Man" story in its Ultimate Comics imprint, but it has offered scant clues as to what ultimate fate may befall the high schooler who was bitten by a radioactive spider.

One thing is for certain: The iconic red-and-blue spider suit is history, replaced by a sleek, streamlined black outfit with a deep red spider on the chest and cobwebs on the shoulders and head.

Marvel editor-in-chief Axel Alonso said that while Parker's fate is still uncertain—"Let's just say that Peter acts like the hero he is, and pays a price for it," he said—there will be some new slinging webs across Manhattan this summer after the current story arc written by Brian Michael Bendis with Mark Millar wraps up in "Ultimate Spider-Man" No. 160.

As for who that person may be, Alonso won't say.



In this publicity image released by Marvel Comics, a comic illustration of Spider-Man is shown.

"We're confident that once readers get to know the person who wears the new Spider-Man, they are going to fall in love," he told The Associated Press. "This is a whole new voyage of self-discovery for the 21st century."

Spider-Man fans need not worry because the Ultimate imprint is separate from Marvel's bigger universe and whatever fate befalls Parker won't count in the pages of the other series, including "Amazing Spider-Man."

Co-workers grit their teeth seeing dentist's sagging pants

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I work in a dental office. My boss (the doctor) and his assistant have a problem keeping their pants up. Every time either of them reaches for something or, God forbid, bends over—they flash their backsides. It's just bad, and both of them are pretty good-sized men.

My boss is the kindest, most generous person I know. But frankly, this is an embarrassment for patients and co-workers alike. Something has to be done. Any suggestions to help us with this problem would be greatly appreciated.

Dear Abby

EMBARRASSED FOR EVERYONE, TOWANDA, PA.

DEAR EMBARRASSED: The doctor and his assistant may be unaware of the show to which they are treating everyone. You say this is not only embarrassing for the employees but also the patients. Have any of them complained about it to you? If so, you have your opening to transmit that message to Dr. Derriere.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend, "Gil," for three years. We bought a house together six months ago. Prior to that, we had a discussion about the future. Gil told me he wanted to get married and have kids.

I expected a marriage proposal over the holidays. When it didn't happen, I asked him what he was waiting for. His response broke my heart. He said he no longer wants to get married. Gil says he loves me, I'm his "best friend," he is willing to move forward and have children—but not get married.

I'm not sure how I feel about his arrangement. I am depressed and don't know what to do. For me, Gil is "The One"—the love of my life. I feel like a failure and a fool for allowing myself to get into this situation. Please help me.

WEDDING BELL BLUES IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR WEDDING BELL BLUES: I don't blame you for feeling depressed and confused. The person you thought was The One led you on and convinced you to make a major investment under false pretenses. You should not have children with him under these circumstances. Before this goes any further and you feel even worse about yourself, I'm advising you to consult a lawyer about extricating yourself from this bad business deal. You're not the failure. He is.

DEAR ABBY: I played matchmaker for a girlfriend and introduced her to a buddy of mine from work. Two years later, he was arrested for molesting her children, and I just found out he'd had a record for this! She is no longer speaking to me. What do I do?

REGRETFUL IN OREGON

DEAR REGRETFUL: All you can do is apologize—which I presume you have already done. Although you were well-intended when you made the introduction, it implied that you were giving him your endorsement. However, you should not have been expected to have done a background check on him—that was your friend's responsibility as the mother of young children. And she may be madder at herself for not doing so than she is at you.

DEAR ABBY: This Friday, April 22, is Earth Day. It offers all of us a chance to do something positive for the planet. Many parents use it as an opportunity to bond with their children by sharing in a project, and some schools offer credit to students who participate (hint, hint). So check your local newspapers and go online to find ways you can help in your community.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

HBO picks up Julia Louis-Dreyfus comedy



Louis-Dreyfus

NEW YORK (AP)—Julia Louis-Dreyfus is set to play the vice president in a new HBO comedy.

The network said Monday it has ordered the new comedy series, "Veep," and expects it to debut in fall 2012. Louis-Drey-

fus plays a former senator who becomes vice president and finds the job is everything she was warned about.

As a featured player in "Seinfeld" and star of "The New Adventures of Old Christine," Louis-Dreyfus has a strong track record in TV comedy.

The series was created by Armando Iannucci, who earned an Oscar nomination for writing "In the Loop." He's an executive producer along with Frank Rich, a former New York Times columnist.

Said Louis-Dreyfus: "Although everyone says this is a comedy, I don't think there is anything funny at all about me being a heartbeat away from the presidency."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

TV Land eyes Cedric the Entertainer sitcom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—TV Land is looking at Cedric the Entertainer as a series star. The channel said Monday it's developing a possible spin-off of its "Hot in Cleveland" sitcom to star the actor-comedian. Cedric's character, a minister, is to be introduced when "Hot in Cleveland" begins a new season June 15. The sitcom stars Valerie Bertinelli, Jane Leeves, Wendie Malick and Betty White, whose characters will mix it up with Cedric. TV Land said whether the proposed, untitled series gets a green light depends on the pilot script to be written by Cedric and "Hot in Cleveland" creator Su-

zanne Martin.

Harvard twins appeal Facebook settlement ruling

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A Facebook lawsuit at the heart of the Hollywood blockbuster "The Social Network" lives on. Two former Harvard University classmates of company founder Mark Zuckerberg asked a federal appeals court Monday to reconsider its order that they accept a settlement over the website's creation. Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss initially claimed Zuckerberg stole their idea for Facebook but agreed to drop their lawsuit in 2008 in exchange for \$20 million in cash plus stock in the compa-

ny. The twins say they later discovered the stock was worth less than claimed at the time, and they sought to have the deal voided. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the Winklevosses last week. Their lawyers have asked for a special 11-judge panel to consider their appeal.

Ronstadt donates collection to Univ. of Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Linda Ronstadt has donated orchestral arrangements, memorabilia and photographs to the University of Arizona's school of music. The singer's collection also includes manuscripts from Nelson Rid-

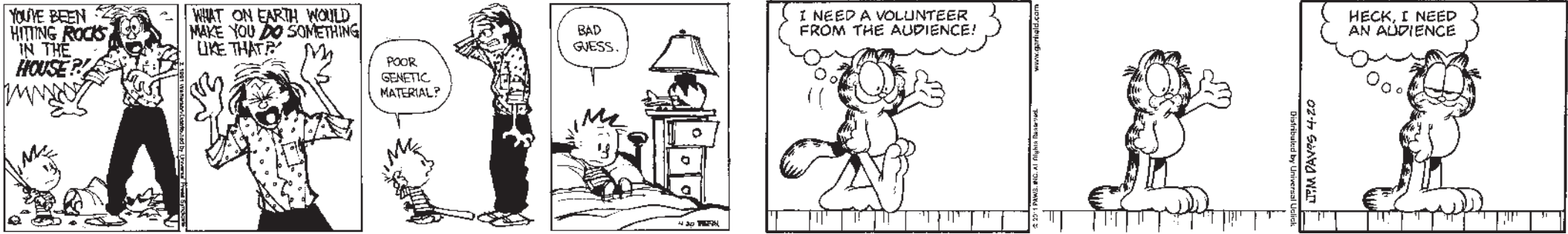
dle, with whom Ronstadt had a longtime artistic relationship. The Arizona Daily Star says the Ronstadt collection joins that of other music greats housed at the Tucson school including Riddle, Artie Shaw, Jo Stafford and Les Baxter. A Tucson native, Ronstadt attended the university in the 1960s before she left for California and a career in music. She had No. 1 hits in rock and country in a diverse career that spanned the 1970s and 1980s. Ronstadt also has recorded albums of American standards and mariachi music and has performed light opera, with roles in Puccini's "La Boheme" and Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 From the start 59 Favorable votes 22 On 23 Heterogeneous 25 Light touch 26 Mess up 27 Tall, thin type 29 Hibernia 31 That girl 32 Recent horror film 34 Auntie of Broadway 38 Palin country 40 "Annie Hall" director 42 Honest politician 43 Soybean paste 44 Leading man? 45 Lovers' quarrel 47 Remain 48 Logical 49 Raw rocks 52 Indivisible 53 Caustic solution

DOWN 1 Isinglass 2 Two peas in — 3 Actress Fisher 4 Sills 5 Writer Fleming 6 Rx overseer 7 Second-year student 8 Italian city 9 Long-pod veggie 10 Initial chip 11 Rend 16 Gender 20 Farm fraction 21 8-Across, e.g. gizmo

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Joey Lawrence, 35; Carmen Electra, 39; Jessica Lange, 62; Ryan O'Neal, 70

Happy Birthday: A sudden boost in morale due to personal gains can be expected. You will find your way regardless of what you face. Call the shots and let everyone know you mean business and don't intend to back down. Your drive and determination will put you in a better position than the competition. Your numbers are 2, 12, 21, 24, 32, 38, 47

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take a close look at the possibilities and you will realize you are sitting in a better position than you thought. Social events or activities will lead to people with something to share with you. A change in location or scenery will lead to an encounter with someone special. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't feel pressured to spend money that will hurt your budget. Emotional blackmail is apparent when it comes to dealing with children or other family members. Invest in your home and your professional goals, not entertainment and luxury items. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make positive changes within your personal and professional partnerships. Speak up about how you see things unfolding and what you have to offer. A positive attitude will bring good results. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Deal with institutions, government agencies or superiors before you fall behind or are faced with an overdue situation that leaves you little wiggle room. Avoid aggressive people. Problems with electronic equipment will cause delays and frustrations. Romance is in the stars. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Moneymaking ideas for a business you can run from home look good. Get things moving but don't try to start at the top and work down. Small, baby steps are the best way to build

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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a strong and lasting base. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expect to face opposition if you don't stick to the format preferred by the people you deal with. Additional burdens will lead to uncertainty. Travel and physical activity will result in mishaps, delays or a challenging situation. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rely on your past experience to help you ferret out the information you need to make a professional decision. As long as you stick to what you know and do best, you will find the path that leads to your success. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel or attending group or organizational functions will lead to meeting new people. Before you become too friendly, question everyone's motives. Emotional deception is apparent. Maintain professionalism. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are a go-getter. You are fun-loving, free-spirited, aggressive, productive and passionate.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	8	2	9	1	3	6	7
6	9	7	5	3	8	4	2	1
2	3	1	6	7	4	5	9	8
4	8	2	7	1	5	6	3	9
9	7	6	8	4	3	2	1	5
3	1	5	9	2	6	8	7	4
7	6	9	4	5	2	1	8	3
8	5	3	1	6	9	7	4	2
1	2	4	3	8	7	9	5	6

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MOUNT FUJI Solution: 9 letters

ROADS REESTHGISP
EKRAPAVEUREASYL
MNHTEIFKSANSEMA
OEODTTATECIPMT
UNMCMHSVKTPIU
NP AEOAREIOPROTS
TAPCCYREBRIIRRN
ACPM L LKIEALTEIO
IEANJOIONTIUWGI
NFANJHVMTEHAOAT
SIRNIGHTB DPLMLA
ECAE@S@REGIONEMV
SUNDRSUOMYNONAE
UECYHPARGOEGFIL
BRE MOTEMEDICINE

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Amurian, Anonymous, Appearance, Best, Bikes, Buses, Climbing, Cone, Elevations, Fifth, Food, Geography, Haku, Holy, Japan, Main, Manned, Marine, Medicine, Meme, Mountains, Night, Pacific, Parke, Pave, Philippine, Plates, Region, Remote, Rise, Roads, Routes, Sightseers, Spiritual, Symmetrical, Tate, Three, Tokyo, Tractor, Volcano, Women

Yesterday's Answer: Tomatoes

Today's Answer: www.wonderword.com

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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To all our valued customers:

Please be informed that the following employees are no longer affiliated/connected with **SAIPAN COOL WATER & ICE, INC.**

Arnel Orbita
Gregorio Jose (Bong)
Lorenzo DL Guerrero
Romill Millare (Bong)

Any transaction made by the above employees, will not be honored by Saipan Cool Water & Ice, Inc.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD.,) **CIVIL ACTION**
Plaintiff,) **NO. 10-0246**
vs.)
TRACY LYNN)
SONGSONG)
TAIMANAO)
n/k/a TRACY)
TAIMANAO INOKE,)
Defendant.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on April 17, 2011, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Lot No. 011 G 795, containing an area of 909 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 17, dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4285, dated December 9, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 12th day of May, 2011, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, April 18, 2011.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff

MICHAELA A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAELA A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,) **CIVIL ACTION**
Plaintiff,) **NO. 09-0338**
vs.)
-v-)

RAMON P. AGULTO and **DALIA R. AGULTO,**)
Defendants.)

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/ Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 13, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of April, 2011.

/s/MICHAELA A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAELA A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAELA A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK,) **CIVIL ACTION**
Plaintiff,) **NO. 07-0021**
vs.)
-v-)

JOSEPH ALDAN ARRIOLA,)
Defendant.)

FIFTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 034 L 129, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS Check No. 034 L 21 recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299; and Lot 034 L 130, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 257 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described in the Subdivision of Lot 034 L 63, on DLS check No. 34 L 21, recorded in the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 97-1299.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 13, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of April, 2011.

/s/MICHAELA A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011

Reporter's Notebook

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

EDITOR

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Heat roll to 2-0 lead over 76ers, 94-73



MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James outscored Philadelphia's entire starting five in the first half by himself.

So did Chris Bosh.

So did Dwyane Wade.

And that pretty much tells the tale of a night the 76ers would rather forget.

No comeback required for the Miami Heat this time. They went wire-to-wire on the lead, and moved two wins from advancing to the Eastern Conference semifinals.

James scored 29 points, Bosh had his second straight double-double with 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Miami took a 2-0 series lead with a 94-73 victory over the abysmally shooting 76ers—who managed their second-lowest playoff scoring total in the last 56 years—on Monday night.

"It was a really complete game for us at both ends of the floor," James said.

Showing no signs of the migraine that he battled Sunday, Wade scored 14 points for Miami, now 17-3 in its last 20 games and halfway to winning its first playoff series since the 2006 NBA finals.

"I'm feeling a lot better," said Wade, who wasn't able to eat Sunday and was very low-energy at times before Monday's game. "I lost a lot of weight tonight ... but I think I did my job, to come out there and help my team get a win."

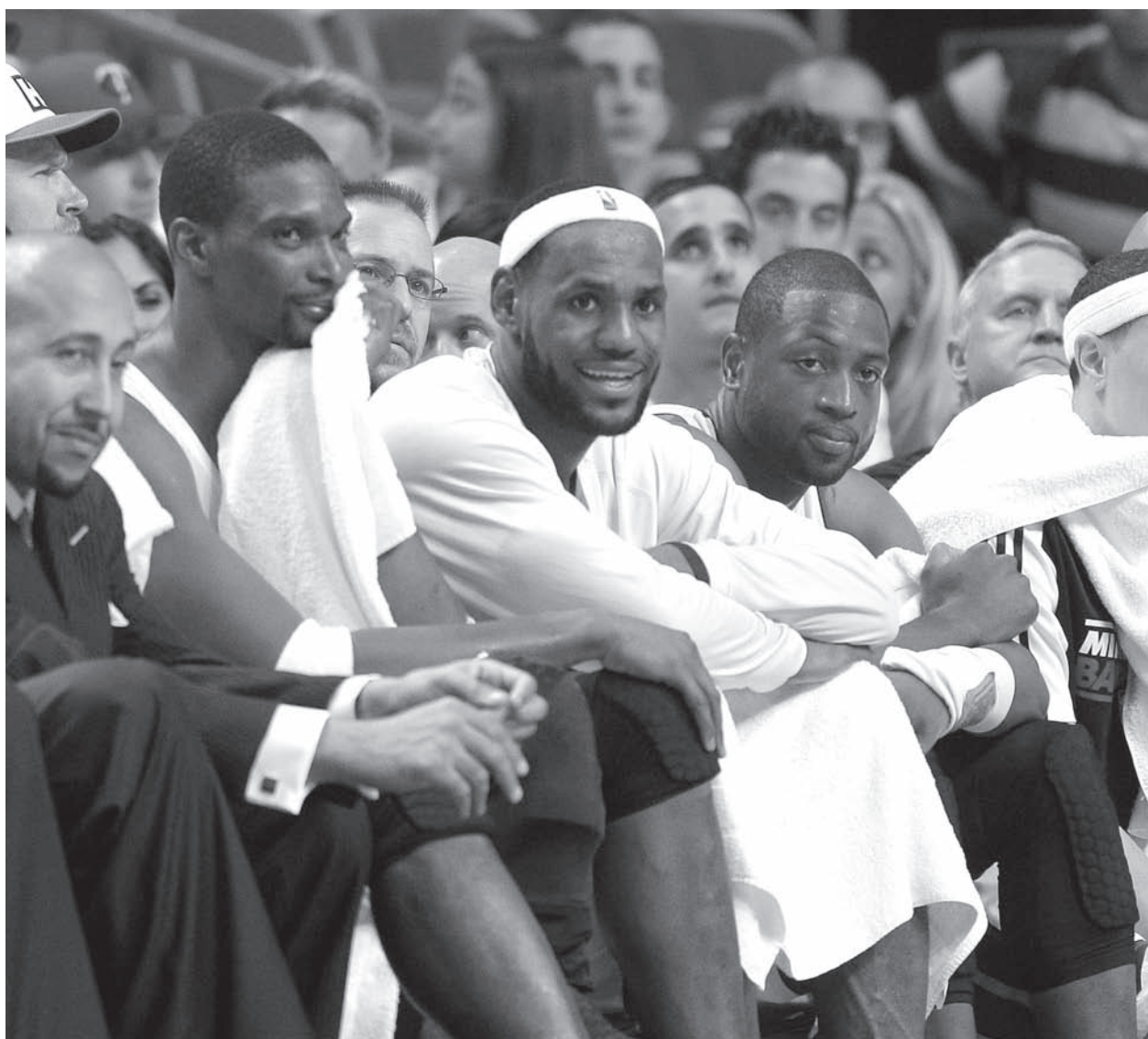
Thaddeus Young scored 18 points and Evan Turner added 15 for the 76ers, whose starters were outscored 76-29 by the Heat's first-string. Philadelphia shot 34 percent for the game, and after getting 42 points in the paint in Game 1, were held to 24 in that department Monday.

"We've had good defensive performances," Bosh said, "but I think today was our best of the season."

The 76ers find themselves needing to buck some serious history. Miami has never lost a series after winning the first two games (6-0), and the Philadelphia franchise is winless in 16 tries after falling into an 0-2 post-season hole. And then there's this—only 14 teams have won after losing the first two games of a best-of-seven NBA series.

"If they're playing great, they're a better team," Sixers coach Doug Collins said. "OK? If they're playing on top of their game, they're a better team. I mean, they won 58, we won 41. That doesn't mean that we aren't going to play and compete and fight. But when they come out tonight and defend the way they did ... it's going to be very difficult for us to beat them."

It was Philadelphia's second-lowest playoff point total since 1955, the only exception coming in a 79-68 loss to Orlando in 1999. And the 76ers won that series.



Miami Heat players Chris Bosh, (left), LeBron James, and Dwyane Wade watch the final minute of play against the Philadelphia 76ers during the second half of Game 2 of the first-round NBA playoff basketball series in Miami, Monday, April 18, 2011.

Philadelphia made 15 of its first 24 shots in Game 1, a 63 percent clip. Since then: 47 of 140, 34 percent.

"You've got to give them credit," said Sixers guard Andre Iguodala, who has nine points on 4-for-15 shooting in the series.

Wade played 34 minutes, despite spending Sunday bedridden in a darkened room fighting off a migraine that he likened to a "nightmare." He had no outward ill effects, shooting 4 for 11 with six rebounds.

Instead, it's the 76ers who spent much of Monday looking pained.

"He controlled the game," James said of Wade. "He had two people on him so he just got off the ball and let other guys make things happen and it's good to have him on the court than in a suit."

Game 3 is Thursday night in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia shot only 26 percent in the first half, a record for a Heat playoff opponent. The 76ers' starters were outscored 41-9 in the opening 24 minutes, and unlike their last two meetings, never put a scare into Miami. Philadelphia had a 16-point lead in the teams' final regular-season matchup, a 14-point lead in Game 1, but simply couldn't get rolling Monday.

The 76ers didn't even have a starter reach double figures until 3:49 remained in the third quarter, when Jrue Holiday made a 3-pointer to get to 10 points. By then, James had 23, Bosh had 15 and Wade 12—and the Heat led 68-50.

The margin kept growing from there, all the way to 28 at one point. A clearly frustrated Collins got a technical with 1:56 left and the game decided, the Heat holding a 91-67 lead.

"We just have to continue to fight," Sixers guard Lou Williams said. "Obviously we're dealing with a team that has a lot of guys that can score the basketball. ... They did what they were supposed to do, which was come out and defend the home court for two games and send us back to Philly with a sour taste in our mouths."

It was over fairly early. James said he wanted to be more aggressive in Game 2 than he was in the series opener, and apparently that message got to all corners of the Heat locker room.

Philadelphia was within 28-20 midway through the second quarter, but a 21-11 Heat run to end the half took care of that. James had consecutive baskets, the second of them a highlight-quality one-handed dunk off a high alley-oop lob from Mario

Chalmers for a 37-23 lead, and Miami was off and running. That play was started by two blocks by Joel Anthony, who ignited the Heat defense all night.

"He's awesome," Bosh said.

The lead was 49-31 by halftime and 75-52 after the third quarter, in which Philadelphia shot only 33 percent but raised its percentage for the game to 28.

"Our energy tonight was much better," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said, "from beginning to end."

Bulls 96, Pacers 90

On Chicago, the way this series is going for the Chicago Bulls, Derrick Rose wasn't sure if he should feel relieved or concerned.

"It's kind of both," he said.

The 2-0 lead sure looks good. How they got it, though, is a different matter.

Rose scored 36 points, Carlos Boozer added 17 points and 16 rebounds, and the top-seeded Bulls pulled out another dramatic victory over Indiana, beating the Pacers 96-90 on Monday night in Game 2 of their first-round playoff series.

"It's always good to win in this league," Rose said. "It's very hard to win. But the way that we're winning, we're just trying to sharpen up things

especially on the defensive end so that we can control the game more instead of us having to play crazy at the end of the game."

Rose went wild again, scoring eight points over the final 4 minutes. Kyle Korver nailed another big 3-pointer to make it 90-85 with just over a minute left after hitting the tiebreaker in the opener.

A.J. Price hit three free throws with 23.4 seconds left after being fouled by Rose to cut the lead to 90-88. Luol Deng quickly answered with two of his own to make it a four-point game. Ronnie Brewer added two more after a missed 3 by Mike Dunleavy, and Chicago, which made its last 16 free throws, hung on.

It hasn't been easy for the Bulls after they stormed through the regular season with a league-best 62-20 record.

"Our play has to get better," Rose said. "We have to be more smooth, more efficient, especially on the defensive end where we have to try a lot harder. But I feel like we're going to get things together pretty quickly."

The Pacers hung in even though they lost Darren Collison to a sprained left ankle going for a layup late in the first half, and coach Frank Vogel is "very" concerned his point guard might miss the rest of the series. Vogel said he's not sure that will happen; he had not talked to team medical personnel.

"He's a big part of what we do," Vogel said. "I don't even know what the update is. I just know he was out for the rest of the game. We'll see where he's at. We got two days."

Rose continued to continued to torment the Pacers even though he had six of his team's 22 turnovers, following up a career playoff-best 39-point performance with another big outing. How good has he been in this series?

Well, Indiana's Danny Granger went from comparing him to a "crazy stalker ex-girlfriend" who doesn't go away after Game 1 to saying this after Game 2: "I feel like this was the sequel to the Derrick Rose show. It really just happened all over again."

Rose didn't get to the line quite as much this time but made the most of his opportunities, hitting 12 of 13 free throws after making 19 of 21 in the opener.

Boozer came up big after a quiet Game 1. The Bulls dominated the boards, outrebounding Indiana 57-33, and came away with the win even though they shot just 38.6 percent and had trouble hanging onto the ball.

Granger led Indiana with 19 points, but Tyler Hansbrough struggled, finishing with just six points on 2-of-12 shooting after scoring 22 points in the opener.

"We feel like we've outplayed them for most of the series," Price said.

NBA BRIEFS

Douglas expected to replace Billups for Knicks

BOSTON (AP)—Toney Douglas played well the last time he filled in for an injured Chauncey Billups. There's much more at stake now. In only his third season, the backup point guard is prepared to take over if, as expected, 13-year veteran Billups misses Tuesday night's second game of the New York

Knicks playoff series with the Boston Celtics with a left leg injury. Coach Mike D'Antoni said Monday that Billups is very questionable for the game. Douglas said that he was ready, but the hardest part is getting his body ready for extra playing time. Billups limped off the court with 51 seconds left in Boston's 87-85 win on Sunday night. In the six games Billups missed with a left

thigh bruise from March 2-10, Douglas averaged 16.8 points and 6.8 assists.

NBA confirms Thunder's go-ahead basket was illegal

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Denver coach George Karl started to lean up against a courtside table at the Oklahoma City Arena on Monday when he stopped to move a flat-panel television

out of the way first. The screen that referees use to check instant replay during games was still in place, about 16 hours after it sat idle following a controversial call in the Nuggets' 107-103 loss to the Oklahoma City Thunder in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series. "Is this the referee thing we should have used last night?" Karl asked reporters before starting his interview session. The NBA

ended up agreeing with Karl's take on the pivotal disputed basket. In a statement, the NBA said referees Steve Javie, Zach Zarba and Bill Kennedy should have ruled Kendrick Perkins' go-ahead basket with 1:05 left was goaltending and disallowed it. Instead, it counted and put Oklahoma City ahead 102-101, and the Nuggets never recovered.

Matsuzaka leads Red Sox to third straight win



BOSTON (AP)—

Japanese star Daisuke Matsuzaka pitched one-hit ball for seven innings and Jed Lowrie had four hits to help the Boston Red Sox extend their winning streak to three games with a 9-1 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Monday.

Matsuzaka (1-2) gave up a single to Jose Bautista with two outs in the first inning. He then walked Travis Snider with two outs in the second before seeing off his final 16 batters. He threw 58 strikes out of 89 pitches.

Matsuzaka, who has struggled this season and entered the game with a 12.86 ERA, matched the fewest number of base-runners he's allowed in his 101 major league starts.

Lowrie, Kevin Youkilis and Jacoby Ellsbury all homered for Boston, which had opened the season with a miserable 2-10 record. Lowrie has 15 hits in his last 24 at-bats.

Ricky Romero (1-2) picked up the loss after allowing five runs in 4 1-3 innings.

Rays 5, White Sox 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, David Price allowed four hits in eight innings as Tampa Bay beat slumping Chicago.

Felipe Lopez homered and drove in three runs to help Tampa Bay win for sixth time in seven games.

Ben Zobrist also had a two-run homer. Price (2-2) struck out nine batters and walked two.

Edwin Jackson (2-1) gave up four runs and 11 hits in seven innings for the White Sox, who have lost five in a row.

Twins 5, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Francisco Liriano took a two-hitter into the seventh inning as Minnesota extended Baltimore's losing streak to eight games.

Drew Butera had a career-high three RBIs for the Twins, who have won two in a row for the first time this season.

Liriano (1-3) gave up two runs, five hits and five walks in 7 1-3 innings.

Matt Capps worked the ninth for his second save, despite allowing a pinch-hit solo homer to Luke Scott.

Orioles starter Chris Tillman (0-2) gave up three runs and six hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Rangers 7, Angels 1

In Arlington, Texas, C.J. Wilson struck out nine in seven strong innings to lead Texas over Los Angeles.

Adrian Beltre homered for the second straight night and Mitch Moreland hit his first homer of the season and drove in three runs for the Rangers.

The Rangers had lost four of five entering the game, while Los Angeles had won five in a row. With the win, Texas took over sole possession of the top spot in the American League West Division, a game ahead of the Angels.

Indians 7, Royals 3, 10 innings

In Kansas City, Missouri, pinch-hitter Shelley Duncan hit an RBI double to spark a four-run 10th inning as surprising Cleveland widened their AL Central Division lead with a win over Kansas City.

Rookie Tim Collins (1-1) walked Carlos Santana to lead off the 10th before Duncan hooked his two-base hit into the left-field corner.

Grady Sizemore added an RBI single in just his second game in nearly a



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka of Japan walks to the dugout during Boston's 9-1 win over the Toronto Blue Jays in a Major League Baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston Monday, April 18, 2011.

year following knee surgery.

Joe Smith (1-0) got the victory with 1 1-3 innings of hitless relief as the surging Indians won their fourth in a row.

Tigers 8, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Brandon Inge scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the seventh inning and Jhonny Peralta added a bases-clearing triple as Detroit rallied late for a win over the Mariners.

Max Scherzer (3-0) remained unbeaten and Detroit scored six times in the seventh, sending 10 batters to the plate.

Inge led off the inning with a single to left, went to second on a sacrifice bunt and moved to third on Ryan Raburn's single. Seattle reliever Josh Lueke (1-1) then dumped a slider in the dirt that allowed Inge to score.

Giants 8, Rockies 1

In Denver, Tim Lincecum took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and three Giants batters homered as San Francisco routed the Colorado Rockies 8-1 in the National League on Monday.

Lincecum (2-1) dominated the Rockies, the best team in MLB over the first 2 1/2 weeks of the season, until Carlos Gonzalez broke up his no-hit bid with a single in the seventh.

Lincecum, the two-time Cy Young Award winner who led the Giants to the World Series title last year, allowed one run and three hits and struck out 10 batters over 7 2-3 innings.

Pat Burrell, Nate Schierholtz and Freddy Sanchez all homered for the Giants.

Esmil Rogers (2-1) allowed eight runs over three innings in just the second loss by a Rockies starter this season.

Brewers 6, Phillies 3, 12 innings

In Philadelphia, Ryan Braun drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the

12th inning to lead Milwaukee.

Brandon Kintzler (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings to earn his first win in the majors.

The Phillies rallied against closer John Axford in the ninth, leveling the score at 3 on Pete Orr's RBI single.

But the Brewers held on to end a three-

game losing streak. After Kyle Kendrick (0-1) walked Rickie Weeks to lead off the 12th, then allowed him to reach third on a wild throw, Braun hit his sacrifice fly to score the winning run.

Cubs 1, Padres 0, 10 innings

In Chicago, Tyler Colvin hit an RBI

double with two outs in the 10th inning to lift the Cubs over San Diego.

Geovany Soto reached on a fielder's choice with two outs, then scored from first when Colvin doubled to right field.

Carlos Marmol (1-1) struck out two in 1 1-3 scoreless innings to pick up the win for the Cubs.

Chad Qualls (0-1) allowed a run while getting two outs for San Diego.

Pirates 9, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Andrew McCutchen doubled home two runs as Pittsburgh topped Cincinnati with its biggest offensive showing of the season.

Pittsburgh scored three runs in the first inning off Travis Wood (1-2), the second game in a row that a Reds starter struggled early against the Pirates.

Kevin Correia (3-1) gave up four hits while pitching his second career complete game.

The Pirates took three of four in the series, and have won their first three road series for the first time since 2002.

Dodgers 4, Braves 2

In Los Angeles, Ted Lilly pitched seven scoreless innings and James Loney had two RBIs to lead the Dodgers past Atlanta.

Lilly (1-2) gave up four hits, struck out six and did not allow a runner past second base. It was his first win in four starts this season.

Matt Guerrier pitched a perfect eighth and Jonathan Broxton gave up two runs in the ninth on an RBI groundout by Freddie Freeman and a double by Nate McLouth before getting the final out.

Tim Hudson (2-2) gave up four runs and six hits in six innings.

NFL sees progress in concussion treatment



NEW YORK (AP)—A puzzling decision to let Eagles linebacker Stewart Bradley back into the season opener led to significant improvement in the detection and treatment of concussions during the rest of the 2010 season, a key NFL medical consultant said Monday.

Dr. Richard Ellenbogen cited the way concussions to two Seattle Seahawks were handled in a playoff game at Chicago as proof the league had taken major steps to ensure such injuries are treated properly.

Asked if the incident with a woozy Bradley being allowed back on the field in Philadelphia spurred the improvement, Ellenbogen said in a conference call, "Had that not happened, we may not have had the NFL sideline examination (for concussions) this year."

The NFL has standardized those examinations for all 32 teams. Ellenbogen, the co-chairman of the league's head, neck and spine committee, said such standardization "will protect against exactly what happened in Philadelphia."

During the Eagles' loss to the Packers, quarterback Kevin Kolb sustained a concussion. While he was being examined, Bradley also was injured and had staggered off the field.

Yet Bradley soon was back playing before being removed for the rest of the game.

"That was the exception and not the rule," said Ellenbogen, chairman of the department of neurosurgery at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

He then praised the way injuries to Seahawks tight end John Carlson and cornerback Marcus Trufant were handled on Jan. 16, four months later.

Carlson suffered a concussion and was carted off in a situation handled "perfectly," Ellenbogen said. And when Seattle cornerback Marcus Trufant was hurt soon after, "team physicians and professional athletic trainers were all over that."

"Remember, when someone is concussed on the field, there are other doctors and trainers watching the game," he said. "So when one player gets concussed, we have others who are watching to ensure the situation in Philadelphia will not occur."

Added Ronnie Barnes, the vice president of medical services for the Giants: "We have any number of trainers and medical staff on the sidelines. You know, we rely on the players quite a bit on concussions. We are constantly assessing players and often we are told by other players: 'Watch this guy. He might have a concussion.'"

That's a culture change from the macho approach of the past, one that John Madden sees as a significant step toward improved player safety. The Hall of Fame coach oversees the league's player safety advisory panel

and is encouraged that medical personnel are now charged with decisions about when a player is healthy enough to return to action.

"Taking it out of the coaches' hands is the way it always should have been," he said. "I go way back and it was a lack of education when I was coaching. I am not proud of it, but it's true. I remember saying (about an injured player), 'What happened to him? Good, it's not a knee or an ankle, it was his head. They will give him smelling salts and he will be back in. Your head will clear up in a couple of minutes and he will be back in.'"

"We were all that way. Now, you see the seriousness of it."

Madden is calling for specific terms that can be used from youth football up to the NFL to describe a player's health. If the players shouldn't be on the field, regardless of the injury, they are a "no-go," Madden said.

"No-go is in the video game and I think it should be used on TV by the commentators," he said. "Our protocol is the player has to leave the field, be escorted off by team personnel, go into the locker room, and will not be made available to the media."

"Any sideline protocol in the NFL game we are going to get in the video game just to promote awareness. On the safety panel, we're working to get more words like 'no-go.' We are not there yet, but we need it just to promote awareness."

McDonald's still backs up All Schools track meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



McDonald's Saipan extended its support to one of the most consistent and well-attended sports programs in the CNMI—the All Schools Athletics Championships.

"We believe in this program and what it stands for so we continue to support the annual competition," said McDonald's Saipan owner and general manager Joe Ayuyu, who led the turnover ceremony of the \$3,359.92 donation to Northern Marianas Athletics for the 2011 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships.

The championship will take place on May 6 and 7 at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility with both the public and elementary schools



McDonald's store manager Marcia Ayuyu, third from left, presents the check donation to Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb, second from left, during a turnover ceremony yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road. Also in the photo are McDonald's owner and general manager Joe Ayuyu, staff Rose Leong-Aguon, and NMA development coach Elias Rangamar.

competing in running, throwing, and jumping events. The All Schools meet will feature contest in the elementary, junior high school, and high school divisions.

"This is the breeding ground for future track stars of the

CNMI. Athletes excelling in this competition give the CNMI pride when they go out in off-island tournaments or play for collegiate teams. With this in mind, we want to continue our commitment with NMA and their successful program,"

Ayuyu said.

McDonald's store manager and Ayuyu's wife, Marcia, who was also present at the donation ceremony in Middle Road yesterday, added the All Schools meet gives student-athletes something to look forward to

every May.

"It keeps them busy after school and gives them a sense of pride, as they compete with other students whether they win or lose. We love to watch them compete next month and inspire them as we help out in giving the awards," Marcia Ayuyu said.

"We congratulate parents and coaches-teachers for getting these student-athletes involved in this competition. We also thank them for their dedication and support to our young athletes," she added.

NMA for its part expressed its deep gratitude to McDonald's Saipan, which has been the association's partner for the All Schools meet since 2004.

"It's been a pleasure and honor working with McDonald's and their generous management and helpful staff. Their assistance helps us maintain this kind of program for our future athletes," NMA developmental coach Elias Rangamar said.

NMA president Ramon Tebuteb, who joined Rangamar and board member Gordon Marciano in the turnover ceremony, said majority of the donation will be used to purchase equipment, particularly for field events.

Tebuteb and Rangamar added they are looking for volunteers for the two-day championship, as they are expecting hundreds of student-athletes next month.

"We are expected a bigger turnout than last year. Also, we are encouraging schools to bring in as many athletes as they can, as we want everyone to be part of this program. We've seen several new talents and we know there are more students out there who can make the grade and impress us," Rangamar said.

Qualifying tournaments for the All Schools will resume next week, as NMA decided to cancel this week's trials in observance of the Lenten season.

SURVIVORS

From Page 28

Over in the Big League, Natibu Northern Stars (6-1) defeated the Island Apparel-Kagman Mobil Station Hustlers (3-4), 7-2, last Thursday.

JUNIOR LEAGUE Survivors 9, IT&E Fielders 0

Survivors took a 2-0 lead in the opening frame off a pair of RBI singles by Caleb Takao and Jeffrey Lizama.

IT&E then went three up and three down in the bottom frame.

Survivors then shot ahead, 6-0, in the second inning. The first three batters reached off two hits and an error that set up a base clearing triple by Jose Lizama; Jeffrey Lizama later sacrificed him home.

IT&E struggled to find its rhythm and got caught in a double play in the bottom frame and then left two men stranded to close the third after a clean 1-2-3 inning out in the field.

Survivors' Jeffrey Lizama added a run in the fourth inning with a base hit and two innings later his team managed two more runs off errors.

IT&E only mustered three base runners in the last three innings.

Survivors' workhorse Jeremy Lizama gave up three hits, five walks, and a bean ball with seven strikeouts in seven scoreless innings.

His teammate Jose Lizama batted 2-for-3 with three RBIs, three runs, and a base on balls.

Falcons 9, Ol'Aces 7

Falcons jumped on top early with three runs in the opening frame.

After a pair of lead off walks, Frankie Lieto pounded an RBI double. Frankie Norita then delivered a sacrifice fly and the other run scored off an error, but the Ol'Aces stopped the bleeding soon after with the bases loaded. Ol'Aces' Mike Muna was tapped early to relieve starter Kenji Yamagata on the mound.

Muna helped his cause and ripped an RBI single in the bottom frame, but Falcons got it back in the top of the third.

Ol'Aces' Muna then pulled his team within a run, 3-4, in the bottom of the inning with a two-RBI single, but the Falcons added a run in the top of the fourth off an error; Ol'Aces left the bases loaded in the bottom frame.

Ol'Aces' defense then became shaky in the top of the fifth as two walks turned into runs off an error and an interference call, but they got them back later in the bottom of the sixth off a pair off stolen dishes by Jesse Brel and Verlance Secharmidal.

The Falcons held their opponents down in the final stand and outscored Ol'Aces, 3-2, to secure the hard-fought win. Both teams went through three pitchers in the game.

IT&E Fielders 14, Lions 4

IT&E shot out of the gate with eight runs in the opening frame.

Its first three batters reached off an error and a couple bean balls that set up a two-RBI single by Khobby

Kaipat and an RBI base rip by Miko Gabionza.

Kaipat would score off a wild pitch, Jerry Kintol drove in Gabionza, and Keene Guerrero drew a walk and later stole home. The other two runs scored off errors.

Then in the third, Jack Espinosa singled in Gayvan Uchau who led off the inning with a triple.

The Lions managed three runs in the bottom frame of a wild pitch and a couple errors. However, IT&E answered with a run in the top of the fifth off an error and then added four more runs to start the fifth off an error, a wild pitch, and a pair of RBI singles by Kaipat and Uchau.

The Lions only managed only one run in their final stand and fell short of avoiding the run-rule decision.

IT&E's Ian Rogolifo batted 3-for-3 with three runs and a hit-by-pitch.

BIG LEAGUE Northern Stars 7, Hustlers 2

After a scoreless opening frame, Northern Stars took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning.

The first two batters reached off errors and were driven home by a Joaquin Castro grounder, a double by Ben Lizama, and a triple by Vince Castro.

Hustlers left a man at second to start the third and the Stars added two more run in the bottom frame from a RBI single by Dodet Feliciano; he later stole second base and home plate.

The Hustlers managed a run in the top of the fourth when Nokki Saralu lead off with a

walk and made it home off an error, but Stars' Isaiah Lizama belted a two-RBI single in the bottom of the fifth before the Hustlers closed the frame with a double play.

Then in the top of the sixth, Saralu led off with a base hit and later stole home to account for his team's only run, Stars went 1-2-3 in the bottom half.

Then Stars' Eric Tenorio came to the mound to close the game for starter Dave Jones.

Winning pitcher Jones allowed one earned run off four hits and a walk with six strikeouts. Teammate Josh Jones batted 3-for-3 with two runs and a stolen base.

SENIOR LEAGUE Ol'Aces 7, Jets 0

Ol'Aces took a 2-0 lead in the top of the second off an RBI base rip by Dave Hosono and an error.

Ol'Aces' Jacob Flores then added a run off an infield scooter in the top of the fifth; Jets left runners on the corners in the bottom frame.

Ol'Aces later added four more runs in the top of the sixth off a double by Phil Litulumar, an error, and a two-RBI single by Frankie Camacho; Jets went 1-2-3 in the bottom frame.

Jets managed a couple of base runners in their final stand, but the Ol'Aces' defense held strong to secure the shutout.

In the game, the Jets were denied access to the plate and instead left nine runners on base.

Winning pitcher Camacho gave up six hits, a walk, and a hit-by-pitch with just three strikeouts in seven scoreless innings.

Top Pool Bar to hold 8-ball tourneys

Top Pool Bar will be holding tournaments three times a week.

The Garapan bar will start with the 8-Ball Pool Tour every Monday and this event is open only to pros. Only the first 16 players to register will compete in the contest, which will start at 7pm. Entrance fee is only \$15 and the first placer will receive \$110. The runner-up will get \$80, while the third finisher will take home \$50.

Then every Wednesday, Top Pool will have a competition

for semi pro. Registration fee is only \$10 with the Top 3 placers getting \$80, \$50, and \$30.

For amateur cue artists, they can join the competition every Sunday. Entrance fee is only \$5 and the first and second placers will pocket \$50 and \$30, respectively. The third place finisher will receive a shirt.

Rules in every division will be discussed before each game.

For more information, contact Zheng at 287-7676. (Rose-lyn B. Monroyo)

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two squads made up the whole U12 division.

The tournament's U15, U17, and U20 divisions are expected to finish up today, starting with the U20 championship at 9:30am, followed by the U15 670 Rollers (2-1) squaring off against the winner of yesterday's matchup between the MTM Falcons (1-1), also of Guam, and Guam's Island Dragons (0-1) in the U15 semifinal at 11am.

Other participating U15 teams include the Rollers (0-2) and the Guam Dragons (1-1).

Guam's U17 Island Dragons (2-0) defeated the Falcons (1-0) on Monday, 45-34, and went on to outlast the Kagman Ayuyus (0-1), 53-48, later that day.

The Island Dragons were paired up against the Falcons again yesterday, but results were not available as of press time. The loser of that game also challenged the winner between the U17 Rollers (1-1) and Thunder (0-2) in yesterday's matchup. Five teams made up the division.

The losing team of yesterday's first U17 matchup will face the winner of yesterday's second pairing at 1:30pm today to see who advances to the U17 finals, which tips off at 4:30pm. If needed, the U20 finals rematch will also take place tonight at 6:30pm, while the U15

and U17 finals rematches are scheduled for tomorrow morning with 10:30am and noon tip offs, if necessary.

The U20 Guam Dragons (2-0) squeaked past the Falcons (0-2), 45-43, on Sunday, while the Rollers (1-1) snuck by the CK Saints (1-1), 47-45, in similar fashion in the U20 second feature.

Then on Monday the Dragons defeated the Rollers, 62-48, while the Saints bested the Falcons, 60-57, to close out Monday's set of games.

The Rollers were set to challenge the Saints yesterday, but results were not available as of press time. Yesterday's U20 winner will challenge the undefeated Dragons at 9:30am today, and if the Dragons are upset, a U20 finals rematch will tip off tonight at 6:30pm. Four teams made up the U20 division.

Games were played with eight-minute quarters where the clock ran continuously until the final two minutes of each quarter.

The awards presentation is set to take place following the final matchup; either tonight or tomorrow morning.

Island Dragons 52 — Blaz 20, Edmund 19, Mori 12, Rodriguez 4, Uchara 2, Samewell 1.

Rollers 21 — Espinosa 11, Cenir 8, Deocares 2, Morales 2, Rios 2, Valencia 2

Scoring by halves: 30-16, 52-31.

\$10K AID

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sion next Thursday to decide on these appropriations.

The CNMI will be sending a four-man golf team, two beach volleyball squads, two track and field athletes, and a couple of

officials to the Pacific Games, which will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10. Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association had estimated the cost of the New Caledonia trip at \$2,200 per delegate with bulk of the cost going to the airfare.

Originally, CNMI's strikers are included on Team Mari-

anas, but Northern Mariana Islands Football Association gracefully pulled out from the competition to avoid major complications arising from their participation in the Pacific Games.

With the NMIFA withdrawal, Tebuteb said Team Marianas is down to 20 delegates from 60 so

the government is not pressed to give a bigger financial assistance. NMASA originally estimated the cost of the trip for 60 at over \$135,000. In NMA-SA's past meetings, president Michael White reiterated that CNMI delegates will appreciate any financial aid it can get from the government.

2011 CNMI Junior Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Michael Ren returns to Luther Lizama during their U12 singles game in the 2011 CNMI Junior Championships last weekend at the AMP tennis courts.



Michael Jones reaches for the ball during his U12 singles game against James Hourican.



Mimi Sakano, left, and Tania Tan almost hit rackets as they go for a return during their doubles game against Julia Ishikawa and Tiffany Madlambayan.



Amy Arenovski goes for a powerful return during her and Jazmine Rayphand's U18 doubles game against sisters Thea and Theecel Minor.



Theecel Minor rushes near the sideline for a return.



Luther Lizama eyes the ball from the baseline.



Negahr Rastguiy hits a backhand return while warming up for a doubles game.



Tiffany Madlambayan practices her backhand return during warm-up.



Tammy Ackerman hits a low ball from the baseline.



Melody Johnson goes for a volley near the net during warm-up.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tsunami Saipan swimmers set 10 records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan swimmers broke records during the All Island Invitational 3 last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Coach Hiro Kimura's swimmers set 10 age group marks with Lukas Kang recording four and Ryuto Yanai, Kensuke Kimura, and Angel Marie Tan tallying two each. Though these Tsunami Saipan swimmers combined for 10 age group records, they crushed marks 14 times.

Kang posted records in the boys U8 50m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, and 400m individual medley. He timed in at 40.82 seconds in the 50m backstroke to shatter his own mark of 42.82 seconds logged on Feb. 4, 2011.

In the 100m breaststroke, Kang clocked in at 1:43.53 in the preliminary swim to surpass the 1:46.19

teammate Ryosei Toda made on April 4, 2009. Then in the finals, Kang submitted 1:40.77 to pass his own mark.

In the 50m butterfly, Kang timed in at 38.72 seconds to beat his own record of 40.02 seconds posted on Feb. 5, 2011. Ryuto Yanai was on the same heat as Kang, and the former registered 39.97 seconds to beat the latter's previous mark.

In the 200m IM, Kang shaved about four seconds from his old record, clocking in at 3:04.92 during the Saturday race to crash the 3:08.36 he tallied on Feb. 5, 2011.

The 8-year-old Kang shattered two more records, but the marks

did not stay long, as Ryuto Yanai entered the picture and surpassed the former's performance.

In the 50m freestyle, Kang recorded 36.56 seconds to top Hiroto Yanai's 37.47 seconds (April 4, 2009). However, Ryuto Yanai had a better time than Kang, making the former's 36.18 seconds the new record in the 50m freestyle.

Ryuto Yanai kept the 100m freestyle record to his credit after clocking in at 1:17.86, less than a second ahead of Kang's 1:18.78. Before the weekend race, Ryuto Yanai held the 100m freestyle mark at 1:21.99 (Feb. 5, 2011).

Kensuke Kimura made record-breaking swims in the 800m freestyle and 400m IM in the boys 13

to 14 age group. His 9:34.26 broke the 9:48.24 he posted on April 10, 2010. In the 400m IM, Kensuke Kimura shattered the 10-year record of Dean Palacios, as the former submitted 5:09.93 against the latter's 5:12.38 (July 29, 2011).

Tan also posted a new record in the girls 11 to 12 400m IM, logging 6:01.04, more than seven seconds faster than the 15-year mark of Xenavée Pangelinan (6:08.07/Jan. 26, 1996).

In the 50m breaststroke, Tan crashed the nine-year record of Myana Welch, as the former submitted 39.06 seconds against the latter's 39.67 seconds (Jan. 31, 2002).



Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang competes in the 50m butterfly race during the All Island Invitational 3 last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Guam Dragons take U12 title, 52-31

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Guam Basketball Club's Island Dragons won the Rollers Basketball Club's Easter Basketball Invitational Tournament U12 division championship over host team Rollers, 52-31, yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Dragons' Austin Blaz hit a couple of threes for eight points in the opening period to lift his team to a 15-4 lead after the first eight minutes of play.

The Rollers' offense picked up a little in the second period, but the Dragons still managed

a daunting 30-16 advantage at halftime.

Dragon's Blaz and Edmund Edmund combined for 15 markers in the second quarter.

The Dragons then sat on their lead throughout the second half thanks to a nine-point string by Edmund late in the game.

The Dragons duo outscored the entire Rollers squad with a joint effort of 39 points.

In addition, the Island Dragons defeated the Rollers, 36-25, in Sunday's first meeting and fell to the Rollers, 33-45, back on Monday; the

See GUAM on Page 26

Guam Dragons' Austin Blaz drives to the basket against Rollers defenders during their U12 division championship game in the Docomo Easter caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Survivors exact IT&E Fielders' first loss



Survivors' Jose Lizama batted 2-for-3 with three RBIs, three runs, and a base on balls in his team's 9-0 upset over Junior League frontrunner IT&E Fielders last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



BTS Survivors' Jeremy Lizama broke the first place IT&E Fielders' nine-game winning streak in the Junior League with a 9-0, three-hit

shutout victory last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. IT&E bounced back the next day and run-ruled the Tan Siu Lin-Rep. Fred DLGuerrero-Rep. Ramon S. Basa Kagman Lions (3-6), 14-4, in five innings to stay a win ahead of the Survivors (9-2).

Also on Saturday, Martha's Store-Ol' Aces (6-3) shut out the Saipan Shipping-Pacific Amusement Jets (3-6), 7-0, in the Senior League; while the Natibu Tanapag Falcons (5-4) defeated the Ol' Aces (4-7), 9-7.

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\$10K aid proposed for Pacific Games bets

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A \$10,000 financial assistance for the CNMI's delegates to the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia has been proposed and waiting for approval from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

The \$10,000 aid for Team Marianas is one of the new items for appropriations under House Local Bill 17-33. The bill aims to appropriate \$3.335 million in estimated revenue from poker license fees to programs and activities in fiscal year 2011.

SNILD chair Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said since new items for appropriations were included in the revised bill, the proposal

was returned to the SNILD's Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Ray Yumul.

"The SNILD, Ways and Means Committee has considered and submitted \$10,000.00 appropriation for the Pacific Games from the poker fees for full approval. In lieu of expected seven amendments from members, I have decided to send the proposed measure, HLB 17-33D1, back to the committee. The committee will now affect the next call for SNILD session upon completion of this assigned matter, as soon as practical," Tebuteb said in an email to Saipan Tribune.

He added he would send a notice to committee members on Tuesday and then hold a session

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